

HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS

DAMS FILE COLLECTION

BOOK D15

TOWN OF PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS



Donald E. Ashe, Register
Hampden County Registry of Deeds,
a Division of the Office of
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth

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1933 Palmer

Located on a tributary of the Swift River fka Otis Company Dam. Aslo *see*: Otis Company Dam.

City/Town	Palmer
City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Otis Company Dam
Dam	Midura Dam
Name	Otis Company
Name	Midura, A J

September 21, 1948

Mr. A. J. Midura
North Main Street
Palmer, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located on a tributary of the Swift River in the Town of Palmer and formerly known as the Otis Co. reservoir dam has been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

> "In a recent inspection made of the Midura dam on a tributary of the Swift River in the Town of Palmer and formerly known as the Otis Co. reservoir dam, it was found that the top of the vertical overflow pipe is covered with what appears to be an old catch basin grate. This grate should be permanently removed to prevent clogging of the overflow with possible resulting over-topping of the structure."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Chairman

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Holbrook Dam fka Piper Dam aka Forest Lake Dam



1933 Palmer

Two dams off Shearer Street. See also Dam Report section: " Forest Lake Right of Way Takings" - D25027.

Abutters	King's Inn
City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Hollbrook Dam
Dam	Forest Lake Dam
Name	Piper
Name	Holbrook, Don
Name	Holbrook, Arthur W
Streets	Shearer Street
Water	Forest Lake

A

May 17, 1933

Mr. Arthur W. Holbrook,
416 Main Street,
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 45 of Chapter 253 of the General Laws as amended by Chapter 334 of the Acts of 1923 and as further amended by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 1924 relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are notified that your dam, located on Gates Brook, sb called, at the outlet of Forest Lake in the Town of Palmer, has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following condition noted and recommendation made by him;

> "There are flashboards one foot in height on the spillway of this dam. It would appeer to be advisable to use these flashboards only during the summer period of low water, and allow the water to waste over the permanent overflow crest at all other times."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman.

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May 28, 1936

Mr. Arthur W. Holbrook
90 Thorndike Street
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In case you contemplate building another dam on the old dam site, situated on Mount Dumpling Brook, so called, in the Town of Palmer downstream from the LaBossiere ice pond dam, your attention is drawn to the laws governing the construction and maintenance of dams. The General Laws, Chapter 253 Section 44 state in substance that plans and specifications shall be filed with and approved by the County before construction is commenced on any dam forming a pond having a capacity of a million or more gallons, or that is ten or more feet in height above the stream bed, or that has a watershed contributary of one or more square miles in area.

Yours truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,

By Thos. J. Costello
Chairman

Chas. W. Bray

Maurice G. Donahue

MEMBER
AM. SOC. C. E.
INST. C. E. GREAT BRITAIN
ENG. INST. OF CANADA

JAMES L. TIGHE

CONSULTING ENGINEER
CALEDONIAN BUILDING, 189 HIGH STREET
HOLYOKE, MASS.
TELEPHONE 5525
MEMBER AM. INST. OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.

MEMBER
BOSTON SOC. C. E.
ENG. SOC. WEST. MASS.
AM. & N. E. W. W. ASSOC'S

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
ANALYSIS OF WATER

WATER POWER INVESTIGATIONS
AND DEVELOPMENT
DAMS AND POWER INSTALLATIONS
ESTIMATES AND APPRAISALS

October 2, 1944

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County, Court House
Springfield, Mass.

Thomas J. Costello, Chairman,

Dear Sir:

Relative to the trouble caused by water from the Ware River backing up to the house of Mrs. Sophie L. Piper, Bennett Road, Palmer, Mass. I have as requested called on Mrs. Piper on Saturday last, and looked over the trouble as pointed out by her.

The house in question is located on Bennett Road, so called, near Forest Lake, and within a short distance from the East bank of the Ware River. From what I had learned the house is only being used in the summer time as a paying guest home, and rented from Mrs. Arthur W. Holbrook of Palmer, Mass. who owns the property.

Originally the house was a saw mill building, but when this business was abandoned, years ago, it was overhauled and changed into a club house, which it had remained, it seems, until Mrs. Piper rented the property.

There is still in the basement of the building the old water wheel, and the feeder canal or ditch that diverted the water to the wheel from the Forest Lake outlet, has not been filled in or levelled up. Neither has the tailrace from the wheel to the river, a distance of a few hundred feet. When the river is high, water backs up in this tail race and causes trouble, especially to the water supply well, sunk close by at the East edge of the tail race, and as it appears, the well water becomes polluted with seepage from the tailrace.

It is thought that the running of the mill of the Thorndike Co. located a mile or over downstream on the Ware River, because of the putting on of flash boards on the dam etc. might be the cause of the back water in tailrace. This is not the case however, inasmuch, as flash boards are not being used on the dam. It seems too, that the house and property in question belonged at one time to the Thorndike Co.

Mrs. Piper thinks that the building of a wall or dam across the mouth of the tail race would prevent any river water from backing up therein. It seems, however, that the better plan would be to fill in the tail race with earth.

Respectfully submitted,

James L. Tighe

October 4, 1944

Mrs. Sophie L. Piper,
Bennett Road,
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Piper:

In accordance with our previous conversation with you with reference to the water of the Ware River backing up onto the premises occupied by you and owned by Mrs. Arthur W. Holbrook, would advise that we referred this matter to our Hydraulic Engineer, James L. Tighe.

We have now been advised by Mr. Tighe that after an examination by him, he is of the opinion that it is not a matter within the jurisdiction of the Hampden County Commissioners but rather is a matter that should be taken up with the Selectmen of the Town of Palmer.

Under the circumstances, we regret that there is nothing further we can do in the matter but suggest that you take the matter up with the parties suggested by our Engineer.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman.

TTM/N

September 27, 1950

Mr. A. W. Holbrook
Kings Inn
Palmer, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located at the outlet of Forest Lake in Palmer has been recently inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

> "There is leakage through the northerly abutment stones. Trees are growing from the abutment area and should be removed. The roots of the trees are separating the stones and are probably the major cause of the leakage. Removal of the trees and stoppage of the leakage should be done immediately."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman

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Forest Lake Dam
Palmer

December 12, 1951

A. W. Holbrook
Kings Inn
Palmer, Mass.

Attention: D. Holbrook

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located on Forest Lake and your dam at the new swimming pool site northerly of Shearer Street have been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

> Forest Lake Dam--Palmer: "There is leakage thru the northerly abutment. A number of trees are growing on the abutment and their roots are apparently opening up the joints in the stone masonry. The earthfill behind the abutment has worn down. The trees should be removed, the abutment repaired, and the earthfill brought to proper grade."
>
> Dam on Shearer Street--Palmer: "This dam has been rebuilt for the purpose of constructing a swimming pool. Certain dike construction and new overflow construction has been started and in some cases completed. The dam, and particularly the dike, are in dangerous condition, should extreme runoff conditions occur. The gates in the structures should be opened wide and no water ponded until plans and specifications of the proposed work have been filed and approved and the construction carried on to completion in accordance therewith."

The correct procedure for obtaining approval of your proposed construction work at the swimming pool site is as follows:

Prepare a petition requesting permission to construct the dam or dams necessary and present this petition to the County Commissioners together with blueprinted plans of the proposed construction and type-

December 31, 1952

Mr. Don Holbrook
Kings Inn
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your two dams at the swimming pool located northerly of Shearer Street in Palmer have been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

> "The spillway flume at the lower dam is being undermined at the downstream end. Proper rip-rap and cut-off wall construction is needed to prevent further damage. The grouted rip-rap at the discharge end of the spillway flume on the upper dam has slipped and is broken. The rip-rap is too small, too thin and has no proper foundation. Plans of the work as completed and showing corrective construction for the above should be filed by the owner."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman

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Holbrook Swimming Pool dams
Palmer

December 16, 1953

Mr. Don Holbrook
King's Inn
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that you dams at the swimming pool, located northerly of Shearer Street in Palmer, and more particularly the lower of the two dams, have been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

> "The spillway flume at the lower dam is being undermined at the downstream end. Proper rip-rap and cut-off wall construction is needed to prevent further damage. This condition was reported previously but to date no protective work has been done. Plans and a descriptive specification of the construction were to have been filed by the owner some time ago. These plans should be prepared and filed in accordance with the provisions of the Law."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman

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November 10, 1954

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Mr. Don. Holbrook
King's Inn
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your lower dam located at your swimming pool off of Shearer Street has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

> "The end of the concrete spillway of the lower dam is not properly protected to prevent damage by undermining. The top two flash boards in the spillway should be removed and kept off until after the heavy spring thaws and rains. This practice of removing flash boards should be followed annually. Plans and specifications of the dam and spillway have not as yet been filed as required by law."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____Chairman

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July 6, 1955 7

Mr. Don Holbrook
King's Inn
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your two dams located at your swimming pool off of Shearer Street have been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

"Upper Dam. The space between the end of the concrete spillway chute and the asphalt mix downstream apron should be filled and sealed with a hot mastic.

"Lower Dam. The end of the spillway chute has not been properly protected from washout, which could be caused by undermining of the earth as a result of a high rate of overflow. The end of the chute must be paved in a proper manner, preferably with a concrete cut-off wall under the end of the chute and with rip-rap of a heavy size downstream from the end of the spillway chute."

Will you kindly take steps to correct this situation by August 30th, 1955. Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request. Our County Hydraulic Engineer will reinspect the dams following the completion of the repair work.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman

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Oct. 22, 1958

Mr. Don Holbrook
424 Main Street
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition, and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located at Forest Lake near the railroad tracks has recently been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

> "This dam is somewhat dilapidated but appears to be safe and satisfactory. Trees growing from the abutments of this dam should be cut down and the root systems killed."

If you have any further question on this, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Oct. 21, 1959

Mr. Don Holbrook
424 Main Street
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located at Forest Lake near the railroad tracks has recently been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

> "This dam is dilapidated but is safe except for trees growing in both abutment areas. Loss of these trees by wind storm might cause damage to the abutment areas and movement of the abutment stones to a point where the pond could drain around the dam. It would seem advisable for the Owner to cut down these trees and to kill the root systems."

If you have any further question on this, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Acting
Commissioner_____

Sept. 28, 1960

Mr. Don Holbrook,
424 Main Street
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam, located at Forest Lake, near the railroad tracks has recently been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

"Conditions now existing are about the same as reported in previous years. It was noted at the time of the last inspection that the flashboards are becoming quite dilapidated and in part are indicating evidence of failure. This condition does not endanger the dam and, as a matter of fact, if they do fail further, the spillway capacity will be increased and the dam made safer. However, the pond level will drop slightly and this could result in property Owners requesting the dam Owner to repair and replace rotting and dilapidated flashboards. The height of the flashboards as measured above the spillway masonry opening on Sept. 15, 1960 was 15-inches.

Trees at both abutments are still present. Their loss by being uprooted in a heavy wind storm could cause failure of the abutments and the earth in the abutment areas with the possible resulting loss of the pond. These trees should be cut down and the root structures killed. This recommendation applies particularly to the twin maple trees at the left abutment adjacent to the roadway. The cost of removing the trees in question is small compared to what the cost of repairing the dam might be, should

the trees be uprooted. It would seem advisable to inform the Owner that the trees should be removed."

If you have any further question on this, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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July 11, 1962

Mr. Don Holbrook
424 Main Street
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam, located at Forest Lake, near the railroad tracks has recently been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

"This dam was found in the same general condition as reported a year ago. Flashboards about 15" in height are on the spillway. The boards are in poor condition. Trees at the abutment areas still exist and, should they become uprooted by a storm, could cause damage to the abutments and a partial loss of the water in storage. If these trees are allowed to remain, their roots will do more and more damage to the masonry of the structure with each passing year.

It was noted that water leaks thru the stone work of the right abutment.

The cost of removing the trees at the abutment areas would be quite small as compared to the cost of repairing the dam, should abutment areas be breached due to a tree being uprooted. It is recommended that the owner be advised again to remove the trees."

Your attention has been called to the need for the removal of these trees at various times in the past. It is recommended that action be taken this year for the removal of the trees in order to properly

protect the masonry of the dam.

If you have any further questions in connection with this matter, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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October 23, 1963

Mr. Dwight Holbrook
424 Main Street
Palmer, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam, located at Forest Lake, near the railroad tracks has recently been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

> " The old stone masonry dam itself is in fairly good condition. However, abutment areas are poor and tree growth at the abutment areas should be cut down. The abutment areas should be improved and properly maintained.
>
> All flashboards are off of the dam and water in storage is down to the crest of the stone masonry spillway.
>
> In recent years, the removal of trees in the abutment area has been recommended time and time again. Should these trees become uprooted or should the root structure cause further damage to the abutment stones, failure of the dam could take place in one or both abutment areas. "

We again call your attention to the need for the removal of the trees growing in the abutment areas at the dam. Recommendations have been made in the past that you take action to remove these trees in order to protect your dam. It is urged that the trees be removed within the next year and that the

abutment areas of the dam be improved as needed.

If you have any further questions in connection with this matter, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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CD Palmer
May 19, 1964

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
52 State Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

In connection with your request pertaining to an investigation of water level at Forest Lake in Palmer, I called the owner of the dam, Mr. Don Holbrook and met him at the site of the dam to discuss the matter of the lowered water level.

Mr. Holbrook stated that he took the flashboards off of the spillway of the dam in order to prevent leakage of water thru the stonework of the abutment areas. At the recommendation of the undersigned, your Board has been advising Mr. Holbrook over the recent past years that large trees growing from the abutment areas should be removed in order that the danger of the trees being uprooted and the resulting formation of a cavity thru the dam would be eliminated.

Mr. Holbrook is of the opinion that it is better and more economical for him to provide additional safety at the dam by removal of the flashboards and lowering of the lake water level than paying for the cost of removing the trees. Thru the removal of the flashboards and lowering of water level in storage, the quantity of water that would be released, should the dam fail, has been greatly reduced under normal conditions. The majority of water is stored on the far side of the highway that cuts across the lake and water from the main part of the lake would first flow thru the culvert under the highway in order to pass thru any breach in the dam. The culvert would act to restrict the flow.

Mr. Holbrook told me that he has checked his legal rights to the dam and any legal requirements he might have for maintaining a given water level in storage. He claims that he owns the full rights to the dam and has no obligation to maintain any water level in Forest Lake. In fact, he states that he may even have the right to drain the lake thru the old drain valve that is

located near the canal headworks that formerly conveyed water to the mill downstream.

Mr. Holbrook also told me that he has offered the dam for sale and is willing to sell it and related water rights to anyone that will pay him a suitable price. I questioned him regarding the price that he has set for his dam and water rights, but he states that he has set no price and is awaiting offers from any interested party or parties.

Public access to the water apparently is from the roadway that cuts across the lake. A graveled area on the smaller side of the lake and leading into that portion of stored water just upstream from the dam provides facilities for boat owners to launch their boats from the road shoulder. However, to gain access to the main part of the lake, it is essential that boat owners then pass thru the concrete culvert under the highway. The lowered water level makes it difficult for boat owners to go thru the culvert. However, if foreign material is removed from the floor of the culvert, it would probably be deep enough to float an average boat from one side of the roadway to another. From a visual examination, it would appear that most of the foreign material consists of sand and gravel.

In summary, as a result of my conversation with Mr. Holbrook, it would appear as if his only objection to restoration of the flashboards is the recommendation for cutting down the few trees at the abutment areas and the expense involved. On the assumption that Mr. Holbrook is correct in stating that he has the right to control the water level at the dam, and that he may agree to putting back the flashboards if the trees were removed, would it not be advisable for either the County, if funds are available, or the interested parties owning land along the shore of the lake and desirous of having the water level restored, to do the tree removal work at the dam and pay the cost thereof.

I have a feeling, however, that Mr. Holbrook would rather sell the dam and the water rights if possible. Again, as mentioned hereinbefore, he did not put any price on the property and the water rights but is waiting for someone to make an offer to him.

In discussing the lake level with Mr. Holbrook, he stated that he has talked with a number of the property owners along the lake and he feels that there are as many in favor of the existing lowered water level as there are opposed to the present conditions. He claims that those in favor of the lowered water level like the longer beach areas available as the result of present conditions.

I have not discussed the water level with any of the persons abutting the lake and simply have Mr. Holbrook's statement in connection therewith at this time.

If there is any further action you wish me to take, please so inform me.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/mb

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

County of Hampden

Springfield, Mass.

Office of the
County Commissioners
52 State Street

William F. Stapleton
Chairman
Ralph P. Walsh
Floyd W. Fradet

June 12, 1968

Mr. Dwight Holbrook
424 Main Street
Palmer, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam, located at Forest Lake, near the railroad tracks has recently been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

"This dam is still quite dilapidated. It is a low stone masonry structure. Joints leak at the right end and at the abutments. Large trenches directly in the abutment areas of the dam still exist and their presence will someday undoubtedly cause the stone masonry to become dislodged. At the left abutment adjacent to the roadway, the earth is being undermined at the tree growing from the abutment and at some future date there will probably be a failure of the dam at this location.

Just upstream of the dam there exists a sizeable railroad fill carrying railroad tracks across the narrow strip of water leading to the dam and spillway. Failure of the dam would result in water being released at a rate controlled by the culverts thru this fill.

One culvert is a concrete pipe fairly high in the railroad embankment and thus this culvert would not operate very long following a failure of the dam since water level would soon drop below its invert. The other culvert is completely inundated but does not appear to be very large.

There is a flashboard on this dam about 12" in height. It is held in place with weak pin supports. On the day of inspection it was being maintained by persons other than the owner of the dam.

In the opinion of the undersigned, though the dam is somewhat dilapidated, the structure does not present any great danger to persons and property downstream. However, the fact that the dam is dilapidated and is in need of maintenance and repairs and has been so reported for a number of years, it is recommended that the owner again be advised to improve conditions at the dam and particularly at the abutment areas."

We again call your attention to the need for periodic maintenance at this dam and in particular, to the need for improving the abutment areas. Loss of this dam and lowering of the water level at Forest Lake would undoubtedly be a hardship to many concerned. Also, the initial discharge of water might do damage to persons and property downstream of the dam. It is recommended that repairs and maintenance be done in the near future to properly safeguard this old dam.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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and fifty-seven, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Chapter 661 of the acts of 1957 is hereby amended by striking out section 4 and inserting in place thereof the following section: — *Section 4.* This act shall take effect as of May thirty-first, nineteen hundred and fifty-seven; but anything in sections one to three, inclusive, of this act to the contrary notwithstanding, the retirement allowance of any person who on May thirty-first, nineteen hundred and fifty-seven was either a member in service, or a member inactive except one who has been retired and who is receiving a retirement allowance, of a retirement system subject to sections one to twenty-eight, inclusive, of chapter thirty-two of the General Laws, shall in no event be less than the retirement allowance provided by the provisions of law in effect immediately prior to the effective date of this act; nor shall the benefit of any beneficiary of such person be less than the benefit so provided.

Approved June 24, 1958.

CHAP. 417. AN ACT FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT BY THE COMMONWEALTH TO THE CITY OF QUINCY FOR CERTAIN LAND TAKEN FOR WIDENING ROBERTSON STREET.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there shall be paid, subject to appropriation, from the Highway Fund, to the city of Quincy the sum of four thousand dollars for approximately four thousand feet of land taken by the commonwealth from the Gridley Bryant School playground for the widening of Robertson street.

Approved June 24, 1958.

CHAP. 418. AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HAMPDEN COUNTY TO ESTABLISH A RIGHT OF WAY FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO FOREST LAKE IN THE TOWN OF PALMER AND OF AN AREA FOR THE PARKING OF VEHICLES CONTIGUOUS TO SAID RIGHT OF WAY.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The county commissioners of Hampden county are hereby authorized to lay out a right of way for public access to Forest lake in the town of Palmer and an area for parking contiguous thereto, in accordance with plans to be approved by the department of public works and showing the location and dimensions of such right of way and parking area. If it is necessary to acquire land for the purpose of laying out such right of way or parking area, said county commissioners shall at the time such right of way or parking area is laid out take such land by eminent domain under chapter seventy-nine of the General Laws. Any person sustaining damages in his property by the laying out of such right of way or parking area, or by specific repairs or improvements thereon, shall be entitled to recover the same under said chapter seventy-nine, provided, that the right to recover damages, if any, by reason of the laying out of such right of way or parking area shall vest upon the re-

cording of the order of taking by said county commissioners and that no entry or possession for the purpose of constructing a public way on land so taken shall be required for the purpose of validating such taking or for the payment of damages by reason thereof.

SECTION 2. The town of Palmer from time to time may make specific repairs on or improve such right of way or parking area to such extent as it may deem necessary, but neither the county of Hampden nor any city or town therein shall be required to keep such right of way or parking area in repair, nor shall it be liable for injury sustained by persons traveling thereon, provided, that sufficient notice to warn the public is posted where such way enters upon or unites with an existing public way.

SECTION 3. All expenses incurred by said county commissioners in connection with such right of way or parking area shall be borne by the county of Hampden, or by such cities or towns therein, and in such proportions as said county commissioners may determine.

SECTION 4. Said right of way or parking area shall not be discontinued or abandoned without authority therefor from the general court.

SECTION 5. Nothing in this act shall be construed to limit the powers of the department of public health, or any local board of health, under any general or special law. *Approved June 24, 1958.*

CHAP. 419. AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION BY BOSTON EDISON COMPANY OF CERTAIN EASEMENTS IN AND OVER LAND OF THE COMMONWEALTH IN THE TOWN OF SUDBURY.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Subject to the approval of the governor and council, the director of the division of fisheries and game, in the name and behalf of the commonwealth, may sell and convey to Boston Edison Company, an electric company organized and existing under the laws of the commonwealth, perpetual rights and easements for the transmission of electric current and for telephone and signal line purposes incidental thereto under, upon and over a strip of land not exceeding two hundred and fifty feet in width, said strip being a portion of the lands situated in the town of Sudbury held for the purposes of the division of fisheries and game, for such price and upon such terms and restrictions as may be agreed upon by said director and said company. *Approved June 24, 1958.*

CHAP. 420. AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BERKSHIRE COUNTY TO ESTABLISH A RIGHT OF WAY FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO MAHKEENAC LAKE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS STOCKBRIDGE BOWL, IN THE TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE AND OF AN AREA FOR THE PARKING OF VEHICLES CONTIGUOUS TO SAID RIGHT OF WAY.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The county commissioners of Berkshire county are hereby authorized to lay out a right of way for public access to Mahkeenac lake, otherwise known as Stockbridge Bowl, in the town of Stockbridge, and an area for parking contiguous thereto, in accordance with plans to be approved by the department of public works and showing the location and dimensions of such right of way and parking area. If it is necessary

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Hampden, ss: County Commissioners' Meeting March 4, 1959

WHEREAS the General Court by an Act known as Chapter 418 of the year 1958 did provide for the establishment of a right of way for public access to Forest Lake in the Town of Palmer and of an area for the parking of vehicles contiguous to said right of way, and did further authorize and direct the County Commissioners of Hampden County to lay out said right of way and parking area; the said County Commissioners hereby give notice that they will meet for the purpose of viewing the premises and hearing all parties interested, at the office of the Selectmen of the Town of Palmer, Holbrook Building, 412 Main Street, Palmer, Massachusetts, on the 23rd day of March next at 3:30 P.M.; and it is ordered by the Commissioners that a copy of this notice be served by the Sheriff of said County, or his Deputy, upon the Clerk of the Town of Palmer in said County, fifteen days at least before the said 23rd day of March and that all other persons and corporations interested therein be notified, by publishing a copy of this notice and this order thereon, twice in the Springfield Daily News and Springfield Union, and once in the Palmer Journal Register, public newspapers printed in said County, the last publication to be seven days at least before the time of said view and hearing, and that copies of this notice, or abstracts containing the sustance thereof and this order, be posted by said Sheriff or Deputy, in two public places in the Town of Palmer seven days before said 23rd day of March 1959.

Ralph P. Walsh)
: County
Thomas F. Sullivan)Commissioners
: of the County

March 6, 1959

Palmer Journal Register,
Water Street,
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sirs:

Kindly publish the enclosed notice (Forest Lake, Palmer) in your newspaper on the following date:

March 12, 1959

Charge to County of Hampden and send newspapers to County Commissioners' Office, Court House, 37 Elm Street, Springfield, Mass.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman.

W/N
encl.

March 6,1959

Springfield Union andDaily News,
Legal Advertising,
Fort Street,
Springfield, Mass.

Dear Sirs:

Kindly publish the enclosed notice (Forest Lake, Palmer) in the morning and evening editions on the following dates:

March 9th and 16th, 1959

Charge to County of Hampden and send newspapers to County Commissioners' Office, Court House, 37 Elm Street, Springfield, Mass.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman.

W/N
encl.

THE COUNCIL OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS
of HAMPDEN COUNTY

March 30, 1959

Commissioners of
Hampden County
Hampden County Court House
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen;

At the march meeting of this organization the secretary was instructed to inform you of the recommendations of the body regards the proposed rights of way for public access to Forest Lake, Buck Pond and Horse Pond.

The sights for entrance and parking suggested at Buck Pond met with 100% approval. The proposed entrance and parking sights at Horse pond were considered adequate, provided that if entrance to Pequoit Pond was difficult or impracticle consideration would be given to a seperate entrance to that pond at a future date....under the proviso as set down buy the legislature.

The organization was not satisfied with the proposals made at the hearing at Forest Lake. The problem of going thru the culvert at summer low water plus the rank groth of weeds and pond lillys in the small pond (north side of river st.) plus the possible use of the areafor parking by other than fishermen and boat men makes this sight on the undesireable side. The council felt that an extention of fill on the right hand side of river st. wide enough for entrance and parking would be much more usefull.

We trust that you will give this latter your due consideration

very truly yours,

/s/ George E. Urban

George E. Urban, Sec.protem

COPY

KENNETH C. SHERMAN
Engineer-Surveyor
PALMER, MASS.

C
O
P
Y

March 29, 1960.

DESCRIPTION OF A PARCEL OF LAND IN PALMER, MASS., to be taken from STUART L. HOLBROOK for a public access to FOREST LAKE.

A certain parcel of land in Palmer, Hampden County, Mass., on the Northerly side of River Street, (1931 County Layout) sometimes called Forest Lake Road, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the Northerly side of said River Street, at a corner of land of Stuart L. Holbrook, said point is 43.0 feet Westerly measured along the Northerly side of said street from a Hampden County Highway Bound which is S 78° 16' 05" W 61.84 feet from Station 28+63.99 in said Layout and running thence

Southwesterly in a curve to the right with a Radius of 1967.00 feet a length of 125.00 feet along the Northerly side of said River Street to a point at land of other Stuart L. Holbrook; thence turning and running

N 33° 42' 47" W about 15 feet along land of said Holbrook to the shore of Forest Lake; thence turning and running

Northeasterly following the shore of said Forest Lake about 128 feet to a point; thence turning and running

S 37° 21' 15" E about 23 feet along remaining land of Stuart L. Holbrook to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Containing about 3,000 square feet of land.

April 7, 1960

To the Director,
Division of Waterways,
Department of Public Works,
100 Nashua Street,
Boston, Mass.

Re: Forest Lake, Town of Palmer.
Chapter 418 Acts of 1958

Dear Sir:

There is being forwarded under separate cover, a tracing showing the right of way to Forest Lake, Town of Palmer, which has been approved by the County Commissioners of Hampden County on April 6,1960, subject to approval by the Commissioners of the Department of Public Works.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Counsel.

May 5, 1960

To the Director,
Division of Waterways,
Department of Public Works,
100 Nashua Street,
Boston, Mass.

Re: Forest Lake, Town of Palmer.
Chapter 418 Acts of 1958

Dear Sir:

On April 7, 1960, there was forwarded to your Division, a tracing showing the proposed right of way to Forest Lake in the Town of Palmer with the request that it be approved by the Commissioners of the Department of Public Works.

Subsequently, by telephone, it was learned that prior written approval by the County Commissioners of Hampden County must be given to the plan for the right of way and then thereafter submitted to your Division for its approval.

Will you, therefore, be so kind as to return to this office the tracing which was forwarded on April 7, 1960 so the approval of the County Commissioners may be stated thereon as well as the original and other tracings of the plan.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Works
Division of Waterways
100 Nashua Street, Boston 14

May 27, 1960

Rec'd May 31, 1960

William J. Foley, Counsel
Hampden County Commissioners
Springfield, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

In reference to your letter of May 5, regarding action on proposed right of way to Forest Lake, Palmer, we have no record of having received the tracing plan and an extensive search has failed to turn it up.

Since this may result in your finding it necessary to prepare a new plan, I am sending you a print of such a plan such as was approved in another instance, which can serve as a sample as to arrangement for signing.

Please note that a key map is customarily provided, also that the taking should extend to the natural pond since this is a great pond increased in size by the dam at the outlet of the small pond to westward connected with Forest Lake.

Very truly yours,

R B MacKinnon

ROBERT B. MAC KINNON

Copy of this letter sent to
Mr. Kenneth C. Sherman,--(Engineer)
57 High Street,
Palmer, Mass.

June 3, 1960

Mr. Robert B. MacKinnon,
Department of Public Works,
Division of Waterways,
100 Nashua Street,
Boston 14, Mass.

Re: Forest Lake,
Town of Palmer.
Chapter 418 Acts of 1958

Dear Sir:

There is enclosed herewith a print showing the right of way to Forest Lake, Town of Palmer, which has been approved by the County Commissioners of Hampden County on June 1, 1960 subject to approval by the Commissioners of the Department of Public Works.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Counsel.

WJF/N
encl.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Works
Division of Waterways
100 Nashua Street, Boston 14

June 7, 1960

Mr. William J. Foley, Counsel
Hampden County Commissioners
Springfield, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

Received your letter of June 3, and print of the plan of proposed right of way to Forest Lake, Palmer.

However, we still must have the tracing plan bearing actual signatures of the County Commissioners and space for signatures of the Board of this Department, preferably in blocks prepared as shown on the sample plan sent with my letter of May 27.

Very truly yours,

R B MacKinnon

ROBERT B. MAC KINNON
Chief Waterways Engineer

June 20, 1960

Kenneth C. Sherman,
Engineer-Surveyor,
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Mr. Sherman: Re: Forest Lake
Town of Palmer.

May we have another tracing plan on the proposed right of way to Forest Lake. The tracing plan submitted by you was sent to Boston to the Division of Waterways and while received by that Division has in the meantime become lost. It is requested that you provide this office with a new tracing plan. If you have any questions, call me.

Very truly yours,

COUNSEL FOR HAMPDEN COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

WJF/N

July 28, 1960

Robert B. MacKinnon,
Chief Waterways Engineer,
Department of Public Works,
100 Nashua Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. MacKinnon:

Re: Right of Way
to Forest Lake, Palmer.

Enclosed please find tracing plan of right of way to Forest Lake, Palmer, approved and signed by the County Commissioners of Hampden County on July 13, 1960.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Counsel.

WJF/N
encl.

Telephone ~~XX~~ Daytimes ATlas 3-3459
~~733-XW~~ Evenings ATlas 3-7368

Successor to
R. O. & G. F. Dingman

KENNETH C. SHERMAN

Engineer - Surveyor

PALMER, MASS.

July 8, 1960

Hampden County Commissioners,
Elm Street,
Springfield, Mass.

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed please find one linen tracing of the public access to Forest Lake. I suggest that you sign this copy when you meet on Wednesday, then have Miss Neilson mail it in the tube provided, to Joseph Merritt to be duplicated. They will in turn mail the original and the duplicate back to me and I will then make the required prints and mail them to you. Doing it this way will put signatures on all copies. If this is not feasable, just mail the tracing to the printer and I will forward your copies to be signed by you when I receive them.

This is the only copy of this plan that I have, so I must get it back to make any copies.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth C. Sherman

Kenneth C. Sherman.

KCS:mcf
Encs:

P.S. I will be out of town until July 18. KCS

Tracing signed by Cty Comms on July 13, 1960 and mailed to Joseph Merritt on July 14, 1960.

Telephone ~~XX~~ Daytimes ATlas 3-3459
~~XXXXX~~ Evenings ATlas 3-7368

Successor to
R. O. & G. F. Dingman

KENNETH C. SHERMAN

Engineer - Surveyor

PALMER, MASS.

July 13, 1960.

DESCRIPTION OF 4 PARCELS OF LAND IN PALMER, MASS.,
to be taken for a public access to FOREST LAKE.

Four certain parcels of land in Palmer, Hampden County, Mass., lying on both sides of River Street, 1931 County Layout, bounded and described as follows:

Parcel #1 - from Stuart L. Holbrook:

BEGINNING at a point on the Northerly side of said River Street, at a corner of land of Stuart L. Holbrook, said point is 43.0 feet Westerly measured along the Northerly side of said street from a Hampden County Highway Bound which is S 78° 16' 05" W 61.84 feet from Station 28+63.99 in said Layout and running thence

Southwesterly 125.0 feet in a curve to the right with a Radius of 1967.00 feet along the Northerly side of River Street to a point at other land of Stuart L. Holbrook; thence turning and running

N 33° 42' 47" W about 15 feet along land of said Holbrook to the shore of Forest Lake; thence turning and running

Northeasterly following the shore of said Forest Lake about 128 feet to a point; thence turning and running

S 37° 21' 15" E about 23 feet along remaing land of Stuart L. Holbrook to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Containing about 3,000 square feet of land.

Parcel #2 - from Owner unknown:

BEGINNING at a point on the Northerly side of River Street, 1931 County Layout; said point is N 3° 11' 56" E 26.79 feet from Station 23+75.27 in said Layout and running thence

S 51° 23' 36" W about 547 feet along the Northerly side of said River Street to a point at land of Stuart L. Holbrook; thence turning and running

Telephone ~~XX~~ Daytimes ATlas 3-3459
~~7336XX~~ Evenings ATlas 3-7368

Successor to
R. O. & G. F. Dingman

KENNETH C. SHERMAN

Engineer - Surveyor

PALMER, MASS.

Description of land taken for public access to Forest Lake Cont'd.

Generally Southwesterly about 188 feet following the shore of Forest Lake to a point at the Northwesterly corner of Parcel #1 above described; thence turning and running

N 33° 42' 47" W about 35 feet to a point which is N 33° 42' 47" W 50.0 feet from the Northerly side of River Street; thence turning and running

Northeasterly in a curve to the left with a Radius of 1917.00 feet a length of 163.73 feet in a course parallel to, and 50 feet distant from the Northerly side of River Street to a point; thence turning and running

N 51° 23' 36" E about 460 feet in a course parallel to, and 50 feet distant from the Northerly line of said River Street to a point at land of the Forest Lake Dairy Company, Incorporated; thence turning and running

Generally Easterly, following the shore of Forest Lake about 70 feet to a point; thence turning and running

N 81° 23' 36" E about 50 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Containing about 30,750 square feet.

Parcel #3 - <u>from Forest Lake Dairy Company, Incorporated</u>:

BEGINNING at a point 50 feet Northwesterly from the Northwesterly line of River Street; said point is S 81° 23' 36" W 100.0 feet from the POINT OF BEGINNING of Parcel #2 above described and running thence

N 81° 23' 36" E about 50 feet along remaining land of Forest Lake Dairy Company, Incorporated to a point on the Northwesterly shore of Forest Lake; thence turning and running

Generally Westerly, following the shore of Forest Lake about 70 feet to a point; thence turning and running

N 51° 23' 36" E about 15 feet along remaining land of the Forest Lake Dairy Company, Incorporated to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Containing about 550 square feet.

Telephone ~~AT~~ Daytimes ATlas 3-3459
~~733-W~~ Evenings ATlas 3-7368

Successor to
R. O. & C. F. Dingman

KENNETH C. SHERMAN

Engineer - Surveyor

PALMER, MASS.

Description of land taken for access to Forest Lake, Cont'd.

Parcel #4 - <u>from Owner unknown:</u>

BEGINNING at a ppint on the Southerly side of River Street 1931 County Layout, at a point which is S 59°48' 22" E 49.38 feet from Station 23+75.27 in the aforesaid County Layout and running thence

Generally Southeasterly to the shoreline of the natural pond.

The above described line is the Northeasterly line; the Southwesterly line is 50 feet from the said Northeasterly line and parallel to it.

Telephone ~~XX~~ Daytimes ATlas 3-3459
~~XXXXXXX~~ Evenings ATlas 3-7368

Successor to
R. O. & C. F. Dingman

KENNETH C. SHERMAN

Engineer - Surveyor

PALMER, MASS.

July 21, 1960.

Hampden County Commissioners,
Elm Street,
Springfield, Mass.

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your check of recent date.

Inclosed please find the linen tracing signed by the County Commissioners last week, 3 ozlid copies of the same, 2 copies of the descriptions of the 4 parcels to be taken, the plan of the Goose Pond access which Miss Neilson let me borrow and my bill for revising the plan.

Previously, your counsel and I thought it would be alright to make a preliminary plan to see if everyone involved would agree as to location etc.,of the access, and not spend a lot of time making a final linen tracing, but apparently the Dept. of Public Works wants a complete and final plan Re: their letter to William J. Foley, Counsel, dated May 27,1960.

I have therefore made the changes and additions suggested by the D.P.W. and made this new copy of the access. This involved going into the field again to make a further study in the Forest Lake Dairy Company, Inc., area, and incidentally, the owners of the Forest Lake Dairy Company have agreed to give the piece of land involved.

If this scheme does become the final plan I can have another linen tracing made of it by the printers.

Also, concrete bounds should be set at the street to locate the access.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth C Sherman

Kenneth C. Sherman.

KCS:mcf
Encs:7

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Public Works

Division of Waterways

100 Nashua Street, Boston 14

August 5, 1960

Hampden County Commissioners
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Attention: William J. Foley

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of the plan for the right of way to Forest Lake, Palmer accompanying your letter of July 28, 1960.

This right of way was authorized as you know by Chapter 418 of the Acts of 1958 and it is my impression and understanding that the intention was to provide access to the main body of Forest Lake, rather than at the small separated shallow portion of pond as proposed by said plan.

Please advise the reason for adopting a location on said small pond and explain how and to what degree it satisfies the need recognized by the General Court for access to Forest Lake.

It is further noted that the plan fails to specify a parking area as required by said Act and that the plan title cites a statute applicable to Goose Pond in Lee and Tyringham.

The plan is returned herewith for such alterations as seem advisable.

Very truly yours,

RODOLPHE G. BESSETTE
Director, Division of Waterways

Tracing plan of right of way to Forest Lake, Palmer, approved and signed by the County Commissioners of Hampden County on July 13, 1960 was handed to Kenneth C. Sherman, Engineer, Surveyor, Hm County Commissioners' Office on October 19, 1960. Plan to be revised.

This letter received in Hampden County Commissioners' Office on September 23, 1960.

September 22,1960

Robert B. MacKinnon,
Chief Waterways Engineer,
Department of Public Works,
100 Nashua Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. MacKinnon:

Will you please advise the County Commissioners of Hampden County as to whether the proposed tracing plan of right of way to Forest Lake, Palmer, has been approved by the Department of Public Works, Division of Waterways.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Counsel.

WJF/N

September 28,1960

Mr. Kenneth C. Sherman,
Engineer - Surveyor,
Palmer, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Sherman: Re: Forest Lake, Palmer.

Will you please call at the County Commissioners' Office in the near future. I wish to discuss with you certain corrections as suggested by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works.

Very truly yours,

COUNSEL FOR HAMPDEN
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WJF/N

Telephone ~~47~~ Daytimes ATlas 3-6210
~~XXXXXXX~~ Evenings ATlas 3-7368

Successor to
R. O. & G. F. Dingman

KENNETH C. SHERMAN

Engineer - Surveyor

PALMER, MASS.

October 20, 1960.

Hampden County Commissioners,
37 Elm Street,
Springfield, Massachusetts.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find the plan of a proposed access to Forest Lake, Palmer, Massachusetts, revised as per your instructions.

In reference to paragraph 3 of Division of Waterways Director Rodolphe G. Bressette's letter to you dated August 5, 1960, I suggest that you explain to him that this location seemed the most practical in view of the conditions found at Forest Lake, and that by taking land along River Street, (parcel 2) and then again on the Southeasterly side of River Street, (parcel 4) which runs Southeasterly to the natural pond, you have satisfied the need recognised by the General Court, which is to provide access to Forest Lake.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth C. Sherman

Kenneth C. Sherman.

KCS:mcf
ENC:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Works
Division of Waterways
100 Nashua Street, Boston 14

October 21, 1960

Mr. William J. Foley
Hampden County Commissioners
Springfield, Mass.

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter of September 22nd inquiring as to whether the right of way to Forest Lake, Palmer has been approved, I send herewith copy of a letter sent to the County Commissioners by Mr. Bessette under date of August 5th, to which there apparently has been no reply.

It would seem from said letter that some action is now necessary by the County Commissioners.

Very truly yours,

R B MacKinnon

ROBERT B. MACKINNON
Chief Waterways Engineer

Received in Hampden County Commissioners' Office
on October 27, 1960.

November 30, 1960

Com. J. Ivan
D. O. W.
Div. of Waterways
100 Nashua St.
Boston 14, Mass.
Attention: Rodolph J. Bocchino, Director

Gentlemen: Re: East Lake Palmer
Ref: Your ltr. Aug. 5, 1960.

There is enclosed herewith a plan of the right of way to East Lake Palmer.

The location of this right of way as shown hereon is the most practical one giving access conditions at East Lake. Entry is by taking land along Riverside Drive (Parcel 2) and by taking land on the Southerly side of Main Street (Parcel 1), which runs Southeasterly to the natural pond, the right of way then

1

follows an adequate access to the pond and Entry in my opinion the legislative intent under Chap. 418, Acts of 1958 and No. 1 on the plan above.

Thanking you for looking forward.

V. T. J.

W. J. T.

November 30,1960

Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
Department of Public Works,
Division of Waterways,
100 Nashua Street,
Boston 14, Mass.

Attention: Rodolphe G. Bessette, Director

Gentlemen: Re: Forest Lake, Palmer
Ref: Your letter Aug.5,1960

There is enclosed herewith a plan of the right of way to Forest Lake, Palmer.

The location of the right of way as shown was determined to be the most practical in view of all conditions at Forest Lake. Further, by taking land along River Street (Parcel 2) and by taking land on the Southeasterly side of River Street (Parcel 4) which run Southeasterly to the natural pond, the right of way then provides an adequate access to the pond and satisfies in my opinion the legislative intent embodied in Chapter 418 Acts of 1958.

Parcel No. 1 on the plan shows the specific area for parking purposes.

Very truly yours,

COUNSEL FOR HAMPDEN
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WJF/N
encl.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Works
Division of Waterways
100 Nashua Street, Boston 14

January 12, 1961

Hampden County Commissioners
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Attention: William J. Foley

Gentlemen:

Enclosed herewith please find signed tracing plan showing proposed right of way to Forest Lake in the Town of Palmer, which was approved by the Commissioners on Dec. 22, 1960.

Very truly yours,

R. G. Bessette

RODOLPHE G. BESSETTE
Director Division of Waterways

jck

Certified Mail

No. 704322

July 26,1961

Mr. Stuart L. Holbrook,
River Street,
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In the matter of the establishment of a right-of-way for the public to Forest Lake in the Town of Palmer, Massachusetts, this will give you notice that for such right-of-way, land supposed to be owned by you has been taken for that purpose and you have been awarded One Dollar ($1.00).

Said taking is indicated on plan filed in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, and Clerk of Courts' Office, Springfield, Massachusetts, and Town Clerk of Palmer, and description sent to you herewith.

If you do not accept the award of damages, you may petition the Superior Court within one year from the time such right-of-way was entered upon or possession thereof was taken for the purpose of establishing a right-of-way, to determine the amount of such damages under Section 14, of Chapter 79 of the General Laws.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman

W/N
ejel.

Certified Mail

No. 704323

July 26,1961

Forest Lake Dairy Company, Incorporated,
River Street,
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sirs:

In the matter of the establishment of a right-of-way for the public to Forest Lake in the Town of Palmer, Massachusetts, this will give you notice that for such right-of-way, land supposed to be owned by you has been taken for that purpose and you have been awarded One Dollar ($1.00).

Said taking is indicated on plan filed in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, and Clerk of Courts' Office, Springfield, Massachusetts, and Town Clerk of Palmer, and description sent to you herewith.

If you do not accept the award of damages, you may petition the Superior Court within one year from the time such right-of-way was entered upon or possession thereof was taken for the purpose of establishing a right-of-way, to determine the amount of such damages under Section 14, of Chapter 79 of the General Laws.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____

July 28, 1961

To the Town Clerk,
Palmer,
Mass.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is an attested copy of the County Commissioners' Decree in the matter of the layout of a right of way for public access to Forest Lake in the Town of Palmer, which is self-explanatory. Plan is also enclosed.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman.

W/N
2 encls.

Document #17120

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Hampden, ss: County Commissioners' Meeting July 26, 1961

Acting under the provisions of Chapter 418 of the Acts of 1958, the County Commissioners of Hampden County now lay out a right of way for public access to Forest Lake in the Town of Palmer in accordance with a plan approved December 22, 1960 by the State Department of Public Works.

Forest Lake 1960 Layout in Palmer

The layout is located at River Street, Palmer, Massachusetts, beginning at a point in the Northerly Street line of River Street at the southeasterly corner of land of Stuart L. Holbrook.

AND the following described four parcels of land are taken in fee for the purposes of said right of way for public access by right of eminent domain under Chapter 79 of the General Laws and all acts in amendment thereof and in addition thereto. All land taken is located in the Town of Palmer in said County.

PARCEL NO. 1. A parcel of land supposed to be owned by Stuart L. Holbrook located on the northerly side of River Street bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the Northerly side of said River Street, at a corner of land of Stuart L. Holbrook, said point is 43.0 feet Westerly measured along the Northerly side of said street from a Hampden County Highway Bound which is S 78° 16' 05" W 61.84 feet from Station 28+63.99 in said Layout and running thence

Southwesterly 125.0 feet in a curve to the right with a Radius of 1967.00 feet along the Northerly side of River Street to a point at other land of Stuart L. Holbrook; thence turning and running

N 33° 42' 47" W about 15 feet along land of said Holbrook to the shore of Forest Lake; thence turning and running

Northeasterly following the shore of said Forest Lake about 128 feet to a point; thence turning and running

S 37° 21' 15" E about 23 feet along remaining land of Stuart L. Holbrook to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Containing about 3,000 square feet of land.

PARCEL #2. A parcel of land supposed to be owned by Owner Unknown located on the northerly side of River Street bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the Northerly side of River Street, 1931 County Layout; said point is N 3° 11' 56" E 26.79 feet from Station 23+75.27 in said Layout and running thence

S 51° 23' 36" W about 547 feet along the Northerly side of said River Street to a point at land of Stuart L. Holbrook; thence turning and running

Generally Southwesterly about 188 feet following the shore of Forest Lake to a point at the Northwesterly corner of Parcel #1 above described; thence turning and running

N 33° 42' 47" W about 35 feet to a point which is N 33° 42' 47" W 50.0 feet from the Northerly side of River Street; thence turning and running

Northeasterly in a curve to the left with a Radius of 1917.00 feet a length of 163.73 feet in a course parallel to, and 50 feet distant from the Northerly side of River Street to a point; thence turning and running

N 51° 23' 36" E about 460 feet in a course parallel to, and 50 feet distant from the Northerly line of said River Street to a point at land of the Forest Lake Dairy Company, Incorporated; thence turning and running

Generally Easterly, following the shore of Forest Lake about 70 feet to a point; thence turning and running

N 81° 23' 36" E about 50 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Containing about 30,750 square feet.

PARCEL #3. A parcel of land supposed to be owned by Forest Lake Dairy Company, Incorporated located on the Northwesterly side of River Street bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point 50 feet Northwesterly from the Northwesterly line of River Street; said point is S 81° 23' 36" W 100.0 feet from the POINT OF BEGINNING of Parcel #2 above described and running thence

N 81° 23' 36" E about 50 feet along remaining land of Forest Lake Dairy Company, Incorporated to a point on the Northwesterly shore of Forest Lake; thence turning and running

Generally Westerly, following the shore of Forest Lake about 70 feet to a point; thence turning and running

N 51° 23' 36" E about 15 feet along remaining land of the Forest Lake Dairy Company, Incorporated to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Containing about 550 square feet.

PARCEL #4. A parcel of land supposed to be owned by Owner Unknown located on the southerly side of River Street bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the Southerly side of River Street 1931 County Layout, at a point which is S 59° 48' 22" E 49.38 feet from Station 23+75.27 in the aforesaid County Layout and running thence

Generally Southeasterly to the shoreline of the natural pond.

The above described line is the Northeasterly line; the Southwesterly line is 50 feet from the said Northeasterly line and parallel to it.

The layout and land takings above described are indicated on plan prepared for the County Commissioners of Hampden County dated July 9, 1960 on file in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds and Clerk of Courts Office also in the Town Clerk's Office and marked as follows:

Plan of a proposed access and parking area to Forest Lake, Palmer, Mass.

Surveyed for the HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Scale 1" = 40' July 9, 1960

Kenneth C. Sherman
Engineer - Surveyor
Palmer, Mass.

Revised Oct. 20, 1960 to Change Chapter and Acts, and to add information concerning parking area.

AND the owners of the land over which said right of way is laid out are allowed until the first day of October next to remove therefrom their buildings, wood, timber or trees.

The Commissioners having heard the proprietors of said land, by themselves, or their agents, so far as they have expressed the desire to be heard on the subject of damages, by them sustained by reason of laying out said right of way, have estimated the same as follows, to wit:

TO:-	Stuart L. Holbrook.....	$1.00
	Owner Unknown.....	1.00
	Forest Lake Dairy Company, Incorporated	1.00
	Owner Unknown	1.00

Payment to be made to the above described parties damaged to the amount that may be found to be their due, by the Town of Palmer, when entry is actually made upon the premises for purposes of a right of way.

Any work required to be done in the carrying out of said order, to be done and performed by the Town of Palmer.

All land, grade, drainage and other legal damages shall be paid by the Town of Palmer.

Ralph P. Walsh)
Thomas F. Quilliam) County Commissioners of the County of Hampden
William F. Hayden)

Hampden, ss: County Commissioners' Meeting July 26, 1961

The foregoing report is filed and accepted, and thereupon it is ordered that the said right of way be a right of way for public access forever.

Attest: Edward G. Shea
Clerk.

Telephone ~~47~~ Daytimes ATlas 3-6210
~~739-W~~ Evenings ATlas 3-7368

Successor to
R. O. & G. F. Dingman

KENNETH C. SHERMAN

Engineer - Surveyor

PALMER, MASS.

September 14, 1961.

Hampden County Commissioners,
Court House,
Springfield, Massachusetts.

Gentlemen:

Commissioner Stapleton approached me yesterday regarding the name of the gentlemen who operate Forest Lake Park, Inc. I find they are Tony and George Lachowetz and their telephone number is Palmer, ATlas 3-9189, or Holyoke, Jefferson 2-4160. The mailing address is either Forest Lake Park, Palmer, or 1270 Montgomery Street, Willimansett, Mass.

Hoping this information will help you.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth C. Sherman

Kenneth C. Sherman.

KCS:mcf

September 21, 1961

Kenneth C. Sherman,
Engineer - Surveyor,
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Mr. Sherman:

The County Commissioners have directed me to write to you requesting that you talk to Tony and George Lachowetz whose address and telephone numbers were supplied by you in your letter of September 14,1961 to the County Commissioners.

The County Commissioners have requested that you seek to obtain from these men free fill for the parking area at the public access and parking area at Forest Lake.

It is felt by the County Commissioners that you will be able to inform these gentlemen of the exact amount of fill in yards required for the parking area.

It is the understanding of the County Commissioners that these gentlemen were willing to furnish fill free for the parking area.

Will you please advise the County Commissioners of what you have learned after talking with these gentlemen.

Telephone ~~47~~ Daytimes ATlas 3-6210
~~733~~ Evenings ATlas 3-7368

Successor to
R. O. & G. F. Dingman

KENNETH C. SHERMAN

Engineer - Surveyor

PALMER, MASS.

April 23, 1962.

Hampden County Commissioners,
Court House,
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

The parking lot at Forest Lake has been completed and two Concrete Bounds have been set at the two front corners. Stanley Wilk, the Highway Superintendant, had put in fill to form a parking area and ramp down to the water as shown on my previous plan.

My bill is enclosed.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth C Sherman

Kenneth C. Sherman.

KCS:mcf

**Copy of this letter sent to
Mr. James Dowds on April 25, 1962.**

Telephone 47 Daytimes
733-W Evenings

Successor to
R. O. & G. F. Dingman

KENNETH C. SHERMAN

Engineer - Surveyor

PALMER, MASS.

March 16, 1962

Messrs. Tony & George Lachowetz
1270 Montgomery Street
Willimansett, Mass.

Gentlemen:

The Hampden County Commissioners have advised me that a taking for a public access to Forest Lake has now been made, and that construction on this project will start sometime next month.

Sometime during 1960, you agreed to give fill for this project, and I am wondering if you still are with that same thought. Could you let me know by phone or letter as soon as possible. I am enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope for your answer.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth C. Sherman

Kenneth C. Sherman

KCS:is

cc: Hampden County Commissioners
Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Note to the Commissioners: Lawrence Miceli, of the Metro Drive-In Theater also is willing to give fill.

April 2, 1962

Board of Selectmen,
Town of Palmer,
Mass.

Re: Right of Way to Forest Lake.

Gentlemen:

This will confirm our conversation of Wednesday, March 28, 1962, relative to the above.

It would be appreciated if the Town of Palmer would clear the area of the right of way of brush and small trees and would then fill and cover the right of way with gravel which is available directly across the road and the open air theater.

Mr. Kenneth Sherman of Palmer is thoroughly familiar with the location of the right of way and the location of the free fill which is available.

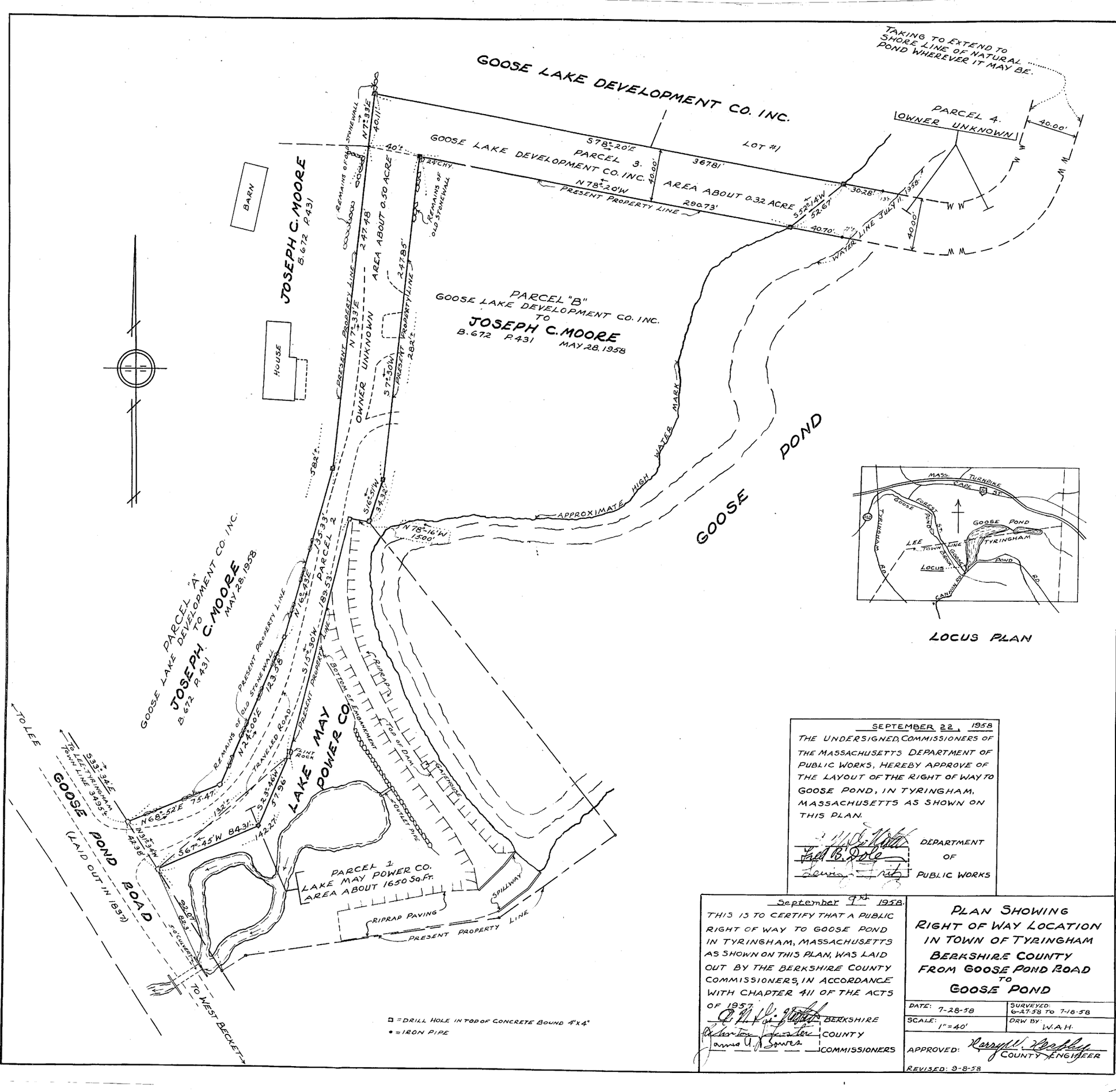
Your co-operation in this matter would be deeply appreciated.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Counsel.

WJF/N



LOCUS PLAN

SEPTEMBER 22, 1958

THE UNDERSIGNED, COMMISSIONERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, HEREBY APPROVE OF THE LAYOUT OF THE RIGHT OF WAY TO GOOSE POND, IN TYRINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS AS SHOWN ON THIS PLAN.

Fred B. Dole
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

September 9th 1958

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY TO GOOSE POND IN TYRINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS AS SHOWN ON THIS PLAN, WAS LAID OUT BY THE BERKSHIRE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 411 OF THE ACTS OF 1957.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PLAN SHOWING RIGHT OF WAY LOCATION IN TOWN OF TYRINGHAM BERKSHIRE COUNTY FROM GOOSE POND ROAD TO GOOSE POND

DATE: 7-28-58	SURVEYED: 6-27-58 TO 7-18-58
SCALE: 1" = 40'	DRW BY: W.A.H.

APPROVED: Harry W. Barkley COUNTY ENGINEER

REVISED: 9-8-58

5-543

Parcel #1 From
STUART L. HOLBROOK
Area = 3,000± Sq. Ft.

Parcel #2 Owner unknown
Area = 30,750± Sq. Ft.

Parcel #3 From
FOREST LAKE DAIRY Co., Inc.
Area = 550± Sq. Ft.

F o r e s t L a k e

Edge of lake March 1960

N 26° 09' 57" W 26.88

H.C.H.Rd

BK. 2188 P. 313
STUART L. HOLBROOK

Sta. 33+51.96

L = 420.10

S 0° 33' 42" 47" W

R = 1917.00

L = 163.73

N 51° 23' 36" E 475.07

460±

38.71
Elevation on ice

S 37° 21' 15" E

128±

125.0

R = 1967.00

55.0

35±

15±

23±

43.0

52.0

60±

41.8±

S 78° 16' 05" W

Sta. 28+63.99

S 51° 23' 36" W 547±

561.67

RIVER

46.97
Elevation on Pavement

Concrete guard posts

45.20
Elevation on Pavement

H.C.H.Rd

Cottage

66.0

STREET (1931 County Layout)

(Sometimes called FOREST LAKE ROAD)

16" Maple

I.P.

Steel 6 Stall Garage

Ice Cream freezing plant and store

N 81° 22' 36" E 45.5±

30±

20±

50.00

R 100.0

N 3° 11' 39" E 26.79

Culvert 8' wide, used to pass boats through.

To Rt. 32, WARE ST.

Sta. 23+75.21

S 81° 22' 36" E 49.48

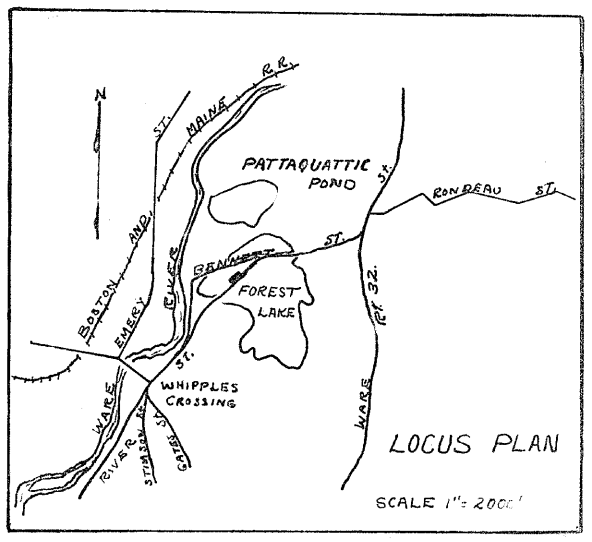
S 10° 55' W

Taking to extend to shore line of natural Pond wherever it may be.

50.0

Parcel #4 Owner unknown

F o r e s t L a k e



October 19, 1960 — not final plan
Plan to be Revised.

PLAN
of a proposed access to
FOREST LAKE, PALMER, MASS.
SURVEYED FOR THE
HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCALE 1" = 40' JULY 9, 1960

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
KENNETH C. SHERMAN
12034
REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR

KENNETH C. SHERMAN
ENGINEER ~ SURVEYOR
PALMER, MASS.

THE UNDERSIGNED, COMMISSIONERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, HEREBY APPROVE OF THE LAYOUT OF THE RIGHT OF WAY TO FOREST LAKE, IN PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS AS SHOWN ON THIS PLAN.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

July 13, 1960

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY TO FOREST LAKE, IN PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS AS SHOWN ON THIS PLAN, WAS LAID OUT BY THE HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 411 OF THE ACTS OF 1957.

William F. Hyndman
Thomas P. Sullivan
Ralph P. Walsh

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

5-543

Campers Country Club Dam aka Lizak Dam



1965 Palmer

Dam located on Kings Brook.

Abutters	Heritage Hills Farm
Abutters	Campers Country Club
City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Lizak Dam
Dam	Campers Country Club Dam
Name	Lizak, John
Water	Kings Brook

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

C.D. Palmer
Oct. 24, 1956

Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
31 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed herewith please find a copy of a communication sent to Mr. John Lizak, Contractor, of Old Warren Rd. in Palmer. The contents of this letter are self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/f

C.D. Palmer
Oct. 24, 1956

John Lizak, Contractor
Old Warren Road
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

On Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 23, 1956, the undersigned visited your facilities on Old Warren Rd., as per your request, to discuss and advise you regarding the construction of a pond to be used in connection with your sand and gravel washing plant. I tried to reach you by phone prior to going to Palmer, but was unsuccessful. I discussed your problem with an employee of yours and he no doubt has by now passed on my thoughts on the matter to you.

It is my understanding that you wish to form a pond or pool on King Brook adjacent to your sand and gravel plant, that can be used as a source of water supply for your washing process. I pointed out to your employee that if a dam is built across the brook, the spillway facilities of this structure must be sizable in order to be able to pass the flood flows of the stream. The drainage area upstream from the location of your proposed pond would appear to be over 2½ sq. miles and probably nearly 3 sq. miles. Such a drainage could contribute a very large quantity of water to the brook course in time of heavy runoff. Since the drainage area of the brook course is over 1 sq. mile, no matter how low in height your dam is built and no matter how small a pond is constructed, the structure would come under County control. By coming within the law, it will be necessary for you to prepare engineering plans and specifications of the proposed construction and to file these with the county commissioners for review and approval before any construction on the dam is started.

It might be possible to provide yourself with a sufficiently large pond of water by excavating a fairly large and relatively deep basin adjacent to the brook that could be used as a pump sump for your washing system. This sump could be kept reasonably clean if it was not directly in the course of the brook. Water from the brook could be diverted into the sump hole and during low seasons of the year when the washing plant would not be in operation, the brook could flow by the basin and thus you would be reducing the possibility of depositing debris and water-carried solids in your storage basin. An excavated basin or

reservoir of this type does not require plans and specifications nor would a spillway be required in the structure. You would be impounding no water above the normal brook course and in time of storms the flow of the brook would not be impounded and thus present a danger to persons and property downstream.

If you care to discuss this matter further, kindly call or write the undersigned. I will be glad to assist you in any possible way.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/f

Sept. 28, 1960

Highway Department
Town of Palmer
Palmer, Mass.

Att: Supt. of Highways

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that the small pond controlled by the culvert inlet under Springfield Road, westerly of Three Rivers Road at the outlet of Sasur Pond, has recently been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

> "The pond is down from what apparently was normal water level during the Summer months. One stop log has been removed from the spillway inlet structure. This spillway inlet structure also serves as the inlet to the culvert under the highway. Surface water running from the shoulder of the roadway just above the culvert and pond spillway structure is washing out the edge of the pavement and the road shoulder itself. At the pond side of the roadway fill which forms the embankment of the dam, a sunken void was noted at the toe of the fill to the left of the culvert and spillway inlet. This sunken void may be the result of water entering the ground and running under the embankment to some opening in a drain pipe or in the culvert itself. Again, it could be the result of other conditions. It would seem advisable to have this void investigated and the cause for its formation corrected. This might be Highway Department work, since the necessary maintenance is in connection with the Highway embankment."

The conditions as noted and reported by the County Hydraulic Engineer are being called to your attention because they are apparently related directly to the embankment that carries the roadway of Springfield Road. It is possible that the needed

maintenance for preventing surface wash and for investigating the void is all within Highway limits and within normal Highway maintenance procedure. We are passing on this information taken from the County Hydraulic Engineer's report, so that you may take whatever steps you wish in connection with these matters.

We have not passed on this information to Mr. Sasur, since the matter of Highway maintenance would probably be outside of his responsibility. If, after investigating the void in the embankment there appears to be some connection with the ponding of water by Mr. Sasur, or other private land Owners, we will be pleased to have the County Hydraulic Engineer investigate the matter further in connection with the requirements under the provisions of Chapter 253 of the General Laws.

If you have any further questions in connection with this matter, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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CD Palmer
July 26, 1965

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
52 State Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

On Thursday, July 22, 1965, the undersigned drove along Warren Street in Palmer and noted that a dam has been constructed on Kings Brook just upstream of the headwall of a twin culvert that passes under Warren Street.

The dam consists of an earth embankment and a concrete spillway. The embankment has been built in two sections, one to the right of the spillway about 175 ft. in length and the other to the left of the spillway about 100 ft. in length. The concrete masonry spillway has a height at the downstream face of the abutment wall of 10.7 ft. It is 11.2 ft. in width and contains stoplogs within 6" of the top of the masonry walls and the adjacent earth embankment sections.

Nowhere in my records do I find that any plans or specifications were filed and approved for the dam as constructed.

The pond formed by the dam is sizeable and from an estimate of the surface area I have concluded that between two million gallons and three million gallons of water are stored.

There is a sign at the dam that would indicate that the structure is owned by Campers Country Club, Division of Heritage Hills Farm.

The capacity of the spillway is grossly inadequate for the drainage area involved. Should heavy runoff conditions occur, it is the opinion of the undersigned that water will top the earth embankment and the dam will be breached. Breaching of the dam could cause the loss of Warren Street.

Because of the quantity of water stored, debris in sizeable quantities might be washed along with the released water to cause damage to the Massachusetts Turnpike further to the south and to State Highway, Route 67.

It is recommended that the Owner of the dam be directed to drain the pond and breach the dam until such time as plans and specifications for a proper structure are filed, approved and a proper dam constructed.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/mb

July 28, 1965

Campers Country Club
Division of Heritage Hills Farm
c/o John Lizak
190B Thorndike Street
Palmer, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Our Board has been informed by the County Hydraulic Engineer that he has noticed a dam built across Kings Brook just upstream of Warren Street in Palmer and that a sign at the site of the dam indicates that the dam is your property.

This dam impounds more than one million gallons of water and the height of the structure is such that it comes under the jurisdiction of the County as determined by Chapter 253 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

It is necessary that any dam of the type now constructed at the site in question be built in accordance with plans and specifications approved and filed with the County of Hampden. According to our records, no plans and specifications have ever been filed and approved.

The County Hydraulic Engineer advises our Board that the dam has a spillway that is grossly inadequate for the drainage area involved and that as existing, the structure is a threat to the safety of persons and property downstream.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are directed to empty the pond and to breach the dam so that no water will be stored by this structure under any anticipated runoff condition.

If you wish to reactivate the dam, kindly have plans and specifications of a dam and spillway prepared and filed for the review of our Board. The

spillway must have a capacity sufficient to pass anticipated flood flows.

If you have any question in connection with this matter, kindly contact our Board or the County Hydraulic Engineer, Mr. George H. McDonnell, telephone 533-3991.

Very truly yours,

Board of County Commissioners

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CD Palmer
August 20, 1965

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
52 State Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to my communication of July 26, 1965, relative to the unauthorized dam on Kings Brook just upstream of the headwall of a twin culvert that passes under Warren Street, in Palmer and to your letter of July 28, 1965, written to Mr. John Lizak.

On Friday, August 6, 1965, the undersigned received a telephone call from a Mr. Sturtevant, a member of the Corporation or group that owns and operates the Division of Heritage Hills Farm that built and apparently owns the dam. Mr. Sturtevant requested that the undersigned meet with him on Tuesday, August 10, at 10:30 AM for the purpose of reviewing the matter of this unauthorized dam and determining how the structure could be altered to meet the requirements of a safe dam.

The undersigned went to Palmer at 10:30 A. M. on the appointed day but, Mr. Sturtevant did not show up. However, Mr. Lizak did come to the dam site and the undersigned spent some time with him reviewing the problem and pointing out that since the dam was on a drainage area considerably in excess of one square mile, the dam must be built in accordance with proper plans and specifications.

I pointed out to Mr. Lizak that the main problem at the dam is the inadequate spillway capacity. He agreed to increase the spillway and, as a result of our conference, he will raise the entire dam embankment and the spillway sidewalls a distance of four feet holding the crest of the spillway at its present elevation. In this way flood waters can pass the dam without over-topping the embankment sections.

I pointed out to Mr. Lizak that my recommendation of an additional 6 ft. of freeboard was based upon a rough calculation and that he should obtain the

services of a qualified engineer to prepare drawings and specifications of the alterations to the dam and that in doing this work, the Engineer should accurately compute the necessary spillway freeboard height. I also pointed out that plans of the earth embankment sections, together with specifications must be prepared and filed.

Mr. Lizak agreed that within the next 30 days he will have engineering drawings prepared of the dam as it will be altered, together with the required specifications and will file them with your Board. If this is done, and raising of the dam is accomplished in accordance with approved plans and specifications, the structure will be capable of passing flood flows in advance of heavy Fall rains.

As now existing, should a hurricane storm occur, the dam will be washed out.

It is recommended that Mr. Lizak be given the 30-day time limit in which to file the plans and specifications and that if they are not filed with your Board by that time, then action should be taken under Chapt. 253 of the General Laws to breach the dam and make it safe.

Respectfully submitted

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

September 22, 1965

Campers Country Club
Division of Heritage Hills Farm
%John Lizak
190B Thorndike Street
Palmer, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the dam on Kings Brook just upstream of Warren Street in Palmer and to the communication from this Board dated July 28, 1965.

The County Hydraulic Engineer reported to our Board that a meeting had been held at the site of the dam on August 10, 1965 at the request of Mr. Sturtevant. Mr. Sturtevant did not appear for the meeting but Mr. Lizak was present and conferred with the County Hydraulic Engineer relative to the existing dam.

At this meeting Mr. Lizak agreed that if given 30 days time, proper plans and specifications would be filed with our Board showing proper construction to provide adequate spillway capacity and that following approval of the plans and specifications the necessary alterations would be made to the dam.

On Tuesday, September 14, 1965 the County Hydraulic Engineer made an inspection of the dam and found that water is still being pounded and that the only change made to improve the safety of the structure has been the removal of stop logs from the spillway.

As of this date no plans and specifications have been filed with our Board as agreed to by Mr. Lizak at the time of his conference with the County Hydraulic Engineer on August 10.

Since the dam as existing impounds more than one million gallons of water and since it has been built upon a stream having more than one square mile of drainage area at the site of the structure and since no approved plans and specifications are on file in the County Court House, the dam is in violation of the provisions under Chapter 253 of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

You are directed that within fifteen (15) days of the date of this communication the dam is to be breached and a sufficient amount of the structure removed from the valley of the brook so that no water will be stored under any condition of stream flow. Failure to comply with this directive will result in action being taken by the County under Section 47 of Chapter 253 of the General Laws and the cost for the work shall be paid for, with interest as applicable, under the provisions of Section 48 of Chapter 253.

Very truly yours,

Board Of County Commissioners

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CD Palmer
October 25, 1965

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
52 State Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

The undersigned has made another inspection of the dam on Kings Brook in Palmer. This is the dam owned by Campers Country Club, Division of Heritage Hills Farm. One of the owners of the property under the said name, is Contractor John Lizak.

In my last letter-report to your Honorable Board, dated October 11, 1965, the undersigned pointed out that Mr. Lizak requested an extension of time under which he is being required to breach the dam. The time extension was to be until October 15.

Late in the afternoon of October 20, 1965, the undersigned went to the site of the dam and found that the dam has been breached and that little or no water is now stored by the dam.

The concrete floor of the spillway has been removed and the dam embankment has been excavated to a depth of about 6 ft. below the top of the embankment. The downstream concrete masonry wall at the face of the spillway has been cut so that little or no water will be ponded by the dam in the future. Water will pass thru the embankment at the dam at the site of the spillway and the remaining undisturbed masonry of the spillway structure will help to keep the flow of the brook directly aligned with the roadway culvert facility.

There is still work to be done at the dam before the breach will be completely acceptable. Debris from breaking thru the concrete masonry wall is lying in the inlet structure to the roadway culvert and the breach thru the embankment material has not been carefully shaped nor has any attempt been made to prevent erosion as flow of the brook passes thru the breach.

I am enclosing herewith a suggested communication to Mr. Lizak. If your Board concurs in its contents, it could be signed and forwarded.

Respectfully submitted,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/ mbf

Enc.

CD Palmer
October 25, 1965

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
52 State Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

The undersigned has made another inspection of the dam on Kings Brook in Palmer. This is the dam owned by Campers Country Club, Division of Heritage Hills Farm. One of the owners of the property under the said name, is Contractor John Lizak.

In my last letter-report to your Honorable Board, dated October 11, 1965, the undersigned pointed out that Mr. Lizak requested an extension of time under which he is being required to breach the dam. The time extension was to be until October 15.

Late in the afternoon of October 20, 1965, the undersigned went to the site of the dam and found that the dam has been breached and that little or no water is now stored by the dam.

The concrete floor of the spillway has been removed and the dam embankment has been excavated to a depth of about 6 ft. below the top of the embankment. The downstream concrete masonry wall at the face of the spillway has been cut so that little or no water will be ponded by the dam in the future. Water will pass thru the embankment at the dam at the site of the spillway and the remaining undisturbed masonry of the spillway structure will help to keep the flow of the brook directly aligned with the roadway culvert facility.

There is still work to be done at the dam before the breach will be completely acceptable. Debris from breaking thru the concrete masonry wall is lying in the inlet structure to the roadway culvert and the breach thru the embankment material has not been carefully shaped nor has any attempt been made to prevent erosion as flow of the brook passes thru the breach.

I am enclosing herewith a suggested communication to Mr. Lizak. If your Board concurs in its contents, it could be signed and forwarded.

Respectfully submitted,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/ mbf

Enc.

GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN
EDWARD J. BAYON

TIGHE & BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
INVESTIGATIONS, REPORTS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

CD - Palmer
September 16, 1965

The Hon. The Board Of County Commissioners
52 State Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to my communication of July 26, 1965 regarding the dam constructed on Kings Brook just upstream from Warren Street in the town of Palmer. The dam was built without approved plans and specifications and because of its size as well as the fact that it is located on the brook at a point where the drainage area is more than one square mile, the structure comes under county jurisdiction. On July 28 your Board wrote to the owner and directed that the pond be emptied and the dam breached so that no water would be stored.

As a result of your communication, Mr. John Lizak of Palmer met with the undersigned at the site of the dam on August 10, 1965. A report on my meeting with Mr. Lizak was submitted to your Board on August 20, 1965.

Mr. Lizak requested that he be given time to properly prepare plans and specifications for filing with your board. He agreed that the dam would be reconstructed immediately, in accordance therewith so that the structure would meet proper standards prior to the fall rainy season.

I recommended to your Honorable Board that Mr. Lizak be given 30 days in which to file his plans and specifications and that if they were not filed within this time limit, in accordance with his agreement with the undersigned, that action be taken under Chapter 253 of the General Laws to breach the dam.

The undersigned inspected the dam on Tuesday, September 14 and found that no change has been made at the dam other than the fact that the owner had removed stop logs from the spillway. To my knowledge no plans and specifications have been filed showing proper construction to provide adequate spillway capacity and a safe dam.

CD - Palmer
September 16, 1965

Since 35 days have now passed and the owner has not kept to the verbal agreement with the undersigned it is recommended that the owner be directed to breach the dam.

Respectfully submitted,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM:es

GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN
EDWARD J. BAYON

TIGHE & BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
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BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

CD-Palmer
September 16, 1965

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
52 State Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Attached hereto is a suggested communication to be sent to the owners of the dam in Palmer on Kings Brook. My suggested wording is rather strong but from my experience to date with the owners they will apparently continue to stall on this matter unless definite action is taken.

As mentioned in a previous communication to your Board, the spillway at this dam is much too small for the drainage area involved and it can be expected that a moderate to heavy hurricane rain storm or a typical heavy spring time run-off condition will result in stream flow that will overtop the dam embankment and then wash out Warren Street. Though Warren Street is not an important street it is traveled quite frequently. At the time of my inspection on September 14, when I was at the dam for a period of 10 minutes, at least 8 automobiles traveled past the dam.

The loss of Warren Street would be an inconvenience to many people, would result in an expense to the town of Palmer, but more important, persons could be killed or seriously injured should they drive by the dam during a heavy storm as the structure fails or immediately after it fails.

The undersigned is of the opinion that firm action should be taken to prevent such an occurrence particularly in view of the fact that the fall rainy season is now upon us.

It is suggested that the communication be mailed to the owners of the dam via Registered Mail - Return Receipt Requested.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM:es

DUFFY AND DUFFY
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
412 MAIN STREET
PALMER, MASS. 01069

JAMES W. DUFFY
EDWARD R. DUFFY

TEL.(413) 283-6271

October 6, 1965

Mr. Ralph P. Walsh
Mr. Thomas F. Sullivan
Mr. William F. Stapleton
Hampden County Commissioners
Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Your letter of September 22 addressed to Campers Country Club Division of Heritage Hills Farm, c/o John Lizak, 190B Thorndike Street, Palmer, Massachusetts has been referred to me for reply.

It is appreciated that a violation does exist.

I represent Mr. Lizak who became involved with two other principals in this endeavor and his partners unfortunately are not keeping their commitments, the result of which is that the project is at a stalemate stage. It is appreciated that corrective measures must be taken and in behalf of Mr. Lizak I specifically ask the question that if he were to fill in this pond, so called, to the extent that its capacity would be less than one million gallons, would this constitute a correction of the situation? Mr. Lizak does not wish to become embroiled with the other principals in the way of destroying the dam and does not wish to personally take measures as outlined in your letter, hence the reason for this alternate request for information.

Thanking you for your reply, I am

Very truly yours,

James W. Duffy

JWD:sah

GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN
EDWARD J. BAYON

TIGHE & BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
INVESTIGATIONS, REPORTS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

CD Palmer
October 11, 1965

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
52 State Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the dam on Kings Brook in Palmer just upstream of Warren Street. Various letter-reports have been submitted to your Honorable Board by the undersigned pointing out that the dam as existing is in violation of Chapter 253 of the General Laws, that the spillway capacity is inadequate and that the dam undoubtedly would be washed out in time of extreme flood flow conditions.

On September 22, 1965, your Board wrote to the Owner in care of John Lizak in Palmer, Massachusetts, and directed that within 15 days of September 22, 1965, the dam was to be breached and a sufficient amount of the structure removed from the valley of the brook so that no water would be stored under any condition of stream flow. Failure to comply with this directive would result in action being taken under the applicable sections of Chapter 253.

Thursday, October 7, 1965, was the 15th day from the date of your letter to Mr. Lizak. On Friday, October 8, 1965, the undersigned went to the site of the dam to determine if Mr. Lizak had complied with your directive. The undersigned found that Mr. Lizak had not complied with your directive in any form whatever. The dam was still intact, water was stored to the level of the spillway and a combination stoplog-fish screen was in the spillway opening.

While making my inspection, Mr. Lizak happened to pass the dam and consequently, stopped to discuss the matter with me. I advised Mr. Lizak that I would report to your Board, on your regular meeting October 13, 1965, that he had ignored your directive and that it would be necessary for me to recommend that your Board authorize the hiring of a Contractor

to breach the dam. I also advised Mr. Lizak that under the provisions of Chapter 253, the cost for the work would be billed back to him and this cost would become a lien on the property involved.

Mr. Lizak told me that in reading your communication he was of the opinion that he had until the 15th day of October to comply with the directive. I advised Mr. Lizak that your letter was very explicit and that the 15 days allotted for breaching the dam began from the date of the letter.

I pointed out to Mr. Lizak that it would be advantageous to him, since he is a Contractor, to breach the dam himself since he could probably do the work at a substantially lower cost than if an outside contractor is called in to breach the dam. I pointed out to him that regardless of how the work was accomplished, under the law the cost of the work must be paid by him.

At the end of our conference Mr. Lizak agreed to do the following:

(a) On Saturday, October 9, 1965, he would open the drawdown gate thru the dam and lower the water level behind the dam.

(b) By Friday, October 15, 1965, the dam would be breached in such a manner that little or no water would be stored and the breach thru the dam would be large enough to safely pass flood flows.

I advised Mr. Lizak that if he would keep to this schedule, I would recommend to your Board that no action be taken by your Board until Wednesday, October 20, 1965. During this present week, I will reinspect the site of the dam and if Mr. Lizak has not breached the dam properly and satisfactorily by Friday, October 15, I will submit a further recommendation to your Board for consideration at the October 20 meeting regarding the breaching of the dam by a separate contractor.

In summary, it is recommended that Mr. Lizak be allowed a time extension for accomplishing the work directed in your communication of Sept. 22, 1965 and that this extension be thru Friday, October 15, 1965.

Respectfully submitted,

George H. McDonnell

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/mbf

GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN
EDWARD J. BAYON

TIGHE & BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
INVESTIGATIONS, REPORTS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

CD Palmer
July 26, 1965

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
52 State Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

On Thursday, July 22, 1965, the undersigned drove along Warren Street in Palmer and noted that a dam has been constructed on Kings Brook just upstream of the headwall of a twin culvert that passes under Warren Street.

The dam consists of an earth embankment and a concrete spillway. The embankment has been built in two sections, one to the right of the spillway about 175 ft. in length and the other to the left of the spillway about 100 ft. in length. The concrete masonry spillway has a height at the downstream face of the abutment wall of 10.7 ft. It is 11.2 ft. in width and contains stoplogs within 6" of the top of the masonry walls and the adjacent earth embankment sections.

Nowhere in my records do I find that any plans or specifications were filed and approved for the dam as constructed.

The pond formed by the dam is sizeable and from an estimate of the surface area I have concluded that between two million gallons and three million gallons of water are stored.

There is a sign at the dam that would indicate that the structure is owned by Campers Country Club, Division of Heritage Hills Farm.

The capacity of the spillway is grossly inadequate for the drainage area involved. Should heavy runoff conditions occur, it is the opinion of the undersigned that water will top the earth embankment and the dam will be breached. Breaching of the dam could cause the loss of Warren Street.

Because of the quantity of water stored, debris in sizeable quantities might be washed along with the released water to cause damage to the Massachusetts Turnpike further to the south and to State Highway, Route 67.

It is recommended that the Owner of the dam be directed to drain the pond and breach the dam until such time as plans and specifications for a proper structure are filed, approved and a proper dam constructed.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/mb

GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN
EDWARD J. BAYON

TIGHE & BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

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BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

CD Palmer
August 20, 1965

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
52 State Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to my communication of July 26, 1965, relative to the unauthorized dam on Kings Brook just upstream of the headwall of a twin culvert that passes under Warren Street, in Palmer and to your letter of July 28, 1965, written to Mr. John Lizak.

On Friday, August 6, 1965, the undersigned received a telephone call from a Mr. Sturtevant, a member of the Corporation or group that owns and operates the Division of Heritage Hills Farm that built and apparently owns the dam. Mr. Sturtevant requested that the undersigned meet with him on Tuesday, August 10, at 10:30 AM for the purpose of reviewing the matter of this unauthorized dam and determining how the structure could be altered to meet the requirements of a safe dam.

The undersigned went to Palmer at 10:30 A. M. on the appointed day but, Mr. Sturtevant did not show up. However, Mr. Lizak did come to the dam site and the undersigned spent some time with him reviewing the problem and pointing out that since the dam was on a drainage area considerably in excess of one square mile, the dam must be built in accordance with proper plans and specifications.

I pointed out to Mr. Lizak that the main problem at the dam is the inadequate spillway capacity. He agreed to increase the spillway and, as a result of our conference, he will raise the entire dam embankment and the spillway sidewalls a distance of four feet holding the crest of the spillway at its present elevation. In this way flood waters can pass the dam without over-topping the embankment sections.

I pointed out to Mr. Lizak that my recommendation of an additional 6 ft. of freeboard was based upon a rough calculation and that he should obtain the

services of a qualified engineer to prepare drawings and specifications of the alterations to the dam and that in doing this work, the Engineer should accurately compute the necessary spillway freeboard height. I also pointed out that plans of the earth embankment sections, together with specifications must be prepared and filed.

Mr. Lizak agreed that within the next 30 days he will have engineering drawings prepared of the dam as it will be altered, together with the required specifications and will file them with your Board. If this is done, and raising of the dam is accomplished in accordance with approved plans and specifications, the structure will be capable of passing flood flows in advance of heavy Fall rains.

As now existing, should a hurricane storm occur, the dam will be washed out.

It is recommended that Mr. Lizak be given the 30-day time limit in which to file the plans and specifications and that if they are not filed with your Board by that time, then action should be taken under Chapt. 253 of the General Laws to breach the dam and make it safe.

Respectfully submitted

George H. McDonnell

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

County of Hampden

Springfield, Mass.

Office of the
County Commissioners
52 State Street

William F. Stapleton
Chairman
~~Ralph P. Walsh~~
Floyd W. Fradet
Stephen A. Moynahan

October 29, 1969

Highway Department
Town of Palmer
Palmer, Massachusetts

Attention: Superintendent of Highways

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that the small pond which is controlled by the culvert inlet under Springfield Road, westerly of Three Rivers at the outlet of Sasur Pond, has recently been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

> "This is a dam formed by the town road leading to Ludlow. The mass of the road is very large and the width of the embankment is thus great in relation to the vertical height.
>
> The intake structure of this small pond was o.k. It was relatively free of debris at the crest and water level in storage was at the normal spillway crest elevation. Debris down in the intake at the culvert entrance should be removed.
>
> In the opinion of the undersigned, the dam is safe."

The condition as noted and reported by the County Hydraulic Engineer wherein debris is down inside the spillway structure and at the inlet to the culvert entrance, is called to your attention for whatever action you wish to take in cleaning out the culvert. It would seem adviseable to clean any debris from the culvert entrance so that there will not be any reduction in capacity of the

culvert to carry off storm flow under the roadway.

If you have any questions in connection with the above recommendation, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____

_____

_____

Central Massachusetts Electric Dam aka Blanchardville Dam



1933 Palmer

Dam located on Quaboag River & Ware River. See also: County Highways (Palmer) - "Dam on Quaboag River - Palmer & Monson Electric Company" - ch01162.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Central Massachusetts Electric Dam
Dam	Blanchardville Dam
Name	Central Massachusetts Electric Company
Water	Quaboag River
Water	Ware River

May 10, 1933

Central Mass. Electric Co.,
406 Main Street,
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 45 of Chapter 253 of the General Laws as amended by Chapter 334 of the Acts of 1923 and as further amended by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 1924 relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are notified that your dam located on the Quaboag River in the town of Palmer has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him;

"The wooden apron attached to the dam, especially the sloped part, is in poor condition and should be repaired or renewed."

Now, therefore, in accordance with Section 46 of said Chapter 253, it is ordered that the above recommendations be complied with in a reasonable length of time.

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman.

_____

_____

Affiliated With NEW ENGLAND POWER ASSOCIATION

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY

Main Street

Palmer, Massachusetts

May 17, 1933

County Commissioner,

County of Hampden,

Springfield, Mass.

Dear Sir:

We wish to acknowledge your letter of May 10 in regard to our Blanchardville dam.

The work in connection with these repairs will be undertaken just as soon as bids have been received and we are authorized by our Boston Office to go ahead.

Very truly yours,

John W. Gale

John W. Gale
Manager

September 2, 1942

Central Mass. Electric Company
406 Main Street
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby notified that your dam on the Quaboag River in Palmer has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

> "There is some leakage coming through this timber dam at a point adjacent to the northerly stone abutment. While this leakage may not be of much consequence in a dam of this type, nevertheless, it is recommended that the attention of the owner be drawn to this leakage."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman

_____

_____

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY
465 North Main Street
Palmer, Massachusetts

October 22, 1942

County Commissioners
County of Hampden
Springfield, Massachusetts

Attention: Mr. Thomas J. Costello, Chrmn.

Gentlemen:

In connection with your letter of September 2 advising us of the leakage through the timber dam in Palmer, we have examined this dam several times rather thoroughly in past years to determine the cause of leakage. Several years ago, we uncovered the face of the dam and found a hole had been knocked into the upstream face. This was repaired and covered.

The leakage that still exists has been noted and from time to time we will make checks as to whether or not any condition develops that would warrant attention.

We appreciate your passing your comment on, however, and assure you that we are checking this dam from time to time.

Very truly yours,

John W. Gale

John W. Gale
Manager

Copy of this letter sent to Mr. Tighe on Oct. 23, 1942.

October 3, 1945

Central Mass. Electric Co.
406 Main Street
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located on the Ware River in Palmer has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him;

> "The leakage showing at the north end of this log crib spillway structure needs attention and should be repaired."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman

_____

_____

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY

465 North Main Street

Palmer, Massachusetts

December 5, 1945

County Commissioners
County of Hampden
Springfield, Massachusetts

Attention: Thomas J. Costello, Chrmn.

Gentlemen:

In reference to your letter of October 3, this is to advise that the work in connection with repairing the leak at our Blanchardville Dam, has been completed.

Very truly yours,

John W. Gale

John W. Gale
Assistant District Manager

Copy of this letter
sent to James L. Tighe,
County Hydraulic Engineer.

Crawford Dam



1957 Palmer

Proposal for dam.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Crawford Dam
Name	Crawford, James M
Streets	Mason Street

COPY

CD-Palmer
April 15, 1957

Mr. James M. Crawford,
P. O. Box 63
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

This letter will confirm our conversation and conference of April 11, 1957 in Palmer, at the site of your proposed dam located easterly of Mason Street. I have also received your letter dated March 28, 1957 containing a topographic map showing the general location of the proposed dam, together with a profile showing various sections of the dam and water depths in the proposed pond.

The proposed dam is to be an earth structure with an around the end spillway. As called for on the profile the height of the dam above the stream level is to be a maximum 9 ft.-11 in. The quantity of water to be impounded behind the dam is considerably less than one million gallons. The drainage area involved is a very small fraction of a square mile. In fact, the stream that is to feed the pond is very small and originates in the immediate vicinity from numerous springs. It is estimated that the drainage area does not equal one-fourth of a square mile and probably is substantially less than this area.

Since the dam, as proposed, will not be large enough to come within the limits of the General Law so as to place the structure under the jurisdiction of the County Commissioners, it will not be necessary for you to file plans and specifications of the proposed construction with the County Commissioners. Should you decide to increase the height of your dam to an elevation whereby the top of the structure will be more than 10 ft. above the stream bed, plans and specifications would then be required to be filed with the County Commissioners, in accordance with the General Law.

If we can be of any further service to you, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

ATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

CD-Palmer
April 15, 1957

Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find a copy of a communication sent to Mr. James M. Crawford, in Palmer, regarding a dam that he proposes to build on his property in Palmer., I have examined the site of the dam and have examined the preliminary drawing of the proposed structure and find that the dam is less than 10 ft. in height, that the quantity of water to be stored will be substantially less than one million gallons, and that the drainage area involved is insignificant being less than one-fourth of a square mile.

The contents of the letter to Mr. Crawford are self explanatory. The copy of the letter is sent you for record purposes.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

Enc.
GHM/cmb

Luppi Dam



1933 Palmer

Located on Gates Brook at the outlet of Lake Thompson.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Luppi Dam
Name	Luppi, D A
Water	Gates Brook
Water	Lake Thompson

May 24, 1933

Mr. Dino A. Iuppi,
84 Saratoga St.,
Springfield, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 45 of Chapter 253 of the General Laws as amended by Chapter 334 of the Acts of 1923 and as further amended by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 1924 relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are notified that your dam, located on Gates Brook so called, at the outlet of Lake Thompson in the Town of Palmer, has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him;

"The concrete overflow channel or swale leading from the spillway downstream across the dam shows some erosion and disintegration. This channel should be overhauled and put in proper repair. To increase the factor of safety against high water or wave action topping the dam it is recommended that the use of flashboards be confined to the period between May 1st and Oct. 15th of each year and that such flashboards should be not over eight (8) inches in height."

Now, therefore, in accordance with Section 46 of said Chapter 253, it is ordered that the above recommendations be complied with in a reasonable length of time.

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman.

_____

_____

Diamond Match Company Dam fka Self-Locking Carton Company Dam fka Colgan-Sherman Dam



1936 Palmer

Dam located on the Ware River, upstream from the company plant in Thorndike.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Self-Locking Carton Company Dam
Dam	Diamond Match Company Dam
Dam	Colgan-Sherman Upper Dam
Name	Self-Locking Carton Company
Name	Diamond Match Company
Name	Colgan-Sherman, Inc
Water	Ware River

Diamond Match Co
Palmer

May 28, 1936

Colgan & Sherman, Inc.
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

With regard to the damage done by the flood waters of last March to the earthen dike running easterly from the easterly abutment of your concrete masonry dam across the Ware River in Palmer, we wish to bring to your attention the fact, that if this dike is to be repaired, a plan and specification of the proposed work should be approved by the County before the work is commenced.

This provision for the approval of plans and specifications for the construction of dams etc. is contained in the General Laws, Chapter 253, Section 44.

Yours truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,

By Thos. J. Costello
Chairman

Chas. W. Bray

Maurice G. Donahue

September 2, 1936

Colgan & Sherman, Inc.

Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

We would like to draw your attention to our letter of May 28th, 1936 relative to the repairs to be made on the earthen dike running easterly from the easterly abutment of your concrete masonry dam across the Ware River in Thorndike.

In case it is not the intention to make adequate repairs or rebuild the dike, it will be advisable, from the standpoint of safety, to draw down the pond and prevent any further impounding of water at this point, after the 1st of January next at the latest.

Yours truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By Thos. J. Costello
Chairman

Charles W. Bray

Maurice G. Donahue

Colgant Sherman Inc.

7

November 10, 1954

Self-Locking Carton Co.
P. O. Box 230
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your upper dam located on the Ware River in Palmer, has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

> "The leakage weir plate constructed for the purpose of measuring leakage under the dam has been broken away from the concrete wall. This plate should be replaced and attached to the wall and maintained in such a manner that at the time of the annual inspection the quantity of leakage can be checked. This weir plate should be re-attached to the wall during the coming summer at the latest."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____ Chairman

_____

_____

GENERAL OFFICES—589 E. ILLINOIS ST.
CHICAGO 11, U. S. A.

SELF-LOCKING CARTON CO.
Division of
GENERAL PACKAGE CORPORATION
Carry-Safe and Case Ace
MOLDED EGG CARTONS

TEL. PALMER 930 — P. O. BOX 230
MAIL REPLY TO ABOVE ADDRESS

PALMER, MASS.

November 29, 1954

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Hampden
Office of the County Commissioners
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

With reference to your letter of November 10, 1954 regarding recommendations made for correction of weir plate which had broken away from the concrete wall, we wish to advise that work suggested has been completed as of November 22, 1954.

Very truly yours,

SELF-LOCKING CARTON CO.

H C Bedson

Howard C. Bedson
Superintendent

HCB:ark

Copy of this letter mailed to
George H. McDonnell, County Hydraulic Engineer,
on December 2, 1954.

GENERAL OFFICES—589 E. ILLINOIS ST.
CHICAGO 11, U. S. A.

SELF-LOCKING CARTON CO

Division of
GENERAL PACKAGE CORPORATION

Carry-Safe and Case Ace
MOLDED EGG CARTONS

TEL. PALMER 930 — P. O. BOX 230
MAIL REPLY TO ABOVE ADDRESS

PALMER, MASS.

July 14, 1955

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the County Commissioners
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

With regard to your letter of July 6th concerning the hole in our earth dike as well as a small leak around the right end of our weir, we wish to advise that this work is completed as per your instructions.

Very truly yours,

SELF-LOCKING CARTON COMPANY

Howard C. Bedson

Howard C. Bedson
Superintendent

HB/cis

Copy of this letter mailed to
George H. McDonnell, County Hydraulic
Engineer, on July 18, 1955.

July 6, 1955

Self-Locking Carton Co.
P. O. Box 230
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your Upper Dam located on the Ware River in Palmer has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

"There is a hole in the earth dike portion of the dam approximately 20 to 25 feet from the left stone abutment. This hole is visible on the top surface of the earth fill. The hole should be investigated, dug out if necessary, and then properly plugged with tight packed fill.

"There is a small leak around the right end of the small leakage weir dam that should be plugged so that all leakage flow passes over the measuring crest of the weir."

Will you kindly take steps to correct this situation by August 30th, 1955. Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request. Our County Hydraulic Engineer will reinspect the dam following the completion of the repair work.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman

_____

_____

COPY

CD

Nov. 14, 1955

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

I have examined a plan and specification filed with Hampden County on Nov. 4, 1955. The Plan is entitled "Temporary Dike, General Package Division, The Diamond Match Company, Thorndike, Mass." drawing No. C-1701-5 and the specifications are entitled "Specifications for the construction of a Temporary Dike, General Package Div., The Diamond Match Co., Palmer, Mass." The Plan and the Specifications were prepared by Harrison G. White Co., Engineers of Springfield, Massachusetts.

The proposed construction is on the Ware River at the upper dam formerly known as the Colgan-Sherman Dam and also referred to in the past as "The Self Locking Carton Company Dam."

The existing dam was not damaged during the flood of August 1955. However, the earth dike to the left or East of the masonry dam was overtopped by the flood waters and washed out. Consequently, the Ware River now flows around the dam rather than over the masonry structure. The proposed dike is a temporary structure to be used to divert the flow of the Ware River into the proper channel and over the masonry dam. The dike will also serve as an upstream coffer dam for further planned construction which will include the extension of the masonry dam to the East to form a permanent structure across the washed out area.

The proposed dike will be built of heavy rip-rap rather than of sand and gravel as in the past. The elevation of the top of the dike will be approximately 3 feet higher than the crest of the masonry dam and approximately 3 feet lower than the top of the washed out dike.

The dike will be sufficiently high to divert all normal as well as unusually heavy stream flows over the masonry dam. At times of exceptionally heavy stream flow the temporary dike will act as an emergency spillway. Consequently, the structure as proposed will provide greater ability for the passage of river flows than in the past.

The proposed construction is to include a rock filled dike with the downstream slope of two horizontal to one vertical and

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Springfield, Massachusetts

CD
Nov. 14, 1955

an upstream slope of three horizontal to one vertical. The width at the top of the dike as proposed will be 10 feet. The spaces between the large stones will be filled with smaller stones and the final voids will be filled in with gravel washed in place. As proposed in the specifications the dike will be constructed in 2 foot lifts and consequently a structure with a solid mass and few voids should be obtained.

The plan shows a transition section at a point 100 feet to 140 ft. easterly of the existing abutment. This transition section is on a 12% grade. The plan does not show how this area is to be protected from high water damage. It is recommended that the Owner be required to riprap this area with heavy stone approximately 2 feet in thickness. Each stone is to be approximately 1/5 to 1/4 cubic yard and this stone riprap is to be so placed as to prevent scour and erosion on this 12% grade as well as on the upstream and downstream faces of the area of the existing dike where velocity of flow will cause movement of small stones and gravel.

The proposed work also includes the repair of the easterly dam abutment.

Assuming then that the work proposed will be faithfully done in accordance with the plans and specifications filed and that the extra heavy ripraping and stone paving as recommended hereinabove will be included in the work, the undersigned recommends that the plans and specifications be approved.

Very truly yours

Tighe & Bond, Inc.

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM:cmb

CD Palmer

August 2, 1956

General Package Division
Diamond Match Company
P. O. Box 230
Palmer, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Recent inspections made at the site of your dam on Ware River, just upstream from your plant, in Thorndike show that repairs to the left abutment wall have been made with gunite by surfacing the dry side of the abutment and by grouting the central portion of the wall. It is apparent that you will probably begin the construction of the temporary dike in the near future and we wish to call you attention to the fact that this dike should be constructed of large stone and particular attention should be given to the placing of the stone so that the dike itself will be reasonably stable and act as a spillway even though it might be overtopped in an extreme flood.

Considerable leakage was noted at the base of the abutment wall near the upstream end of the wall. This leakage does not seem serious from a safety viewpoint and when the dike is constructed the stone construction will prevent the movement of any soil and thus the undermining of the wall or the dike itself. The material in the riverbed is extremely porous in nature and conditions are such that it would probably be difficult and expensive to control the leakage.

Periodic inspections will be made of the dike and if you have any question regarding construction procedure, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

Oct. 31, 1956

General Package Division
Diamond Match Co.
P. O. Box 230
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen

Our County Hydraulic Engineer has recently inspected the lower dam at your property in Palmer and reports that the dam and the dike along the canal are in satisfactory condition. However, the dike needs routine maintenance that should be taken care of in the immediate future. Brush and scrub growth on the surface of the dike should be cut down and removed. Any washed portions of the surface of the dike should be properly filled and graded.

Any additional information desired on this matter will be furnished upon request.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

_____

_____

_____

GENERAL PACKAGE

Division

THE DIAMOND MATCH COMPANY

Carry-Safe and Case-Ace
MOLDED EGG CARTONS

GENERAL OFFICES
CHICAGO 11, U. S. A.

TEL. PALMER 930 - P. O. BOX 230
PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS
MAIL REPLY TO ABOVE ADDRESS

January 3, 1957

Office of the County Commissioners
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

With reference to your letter of October 31, 1956 in which you made certain recommendations concerning our lower dam and dike, we wish to advise that this work was completed on or about December 10, 1956.

We trust that you will find everything in a satisfactory condition.

Very truly yours,

GENERAL PACKAGE DIVISION
The Diamond Match Company

H C Bedson

Howard C. Bedson
Plant Manager

HCB:ark

Copy of this letter mailed to George H. McDonnell, County Hydraulic Engineer, on January 4, 1957.

CD Palmer
Aug. 19, 1957

General Package Division
Diamond Match Company
Palmer, Mass.

Att: Engineering Dept.

Gentlemen:

The following will confirm the verbal recommendations given by the undersigned on Aug. 8, 1957 at the time of inspecting your upper dam at the site of your plant in Palmer.

The canal spillway structure was examined and it would appear as if the cap stones of the spillway overflow have moved out and probably have moved sufficiently to require their being reset in their proper locations. When these cap stones are reset, it would be well to drill thru the stones into the underlying stone courses and to dowel the cap stones to the underlying stone masonry.

Both abutment walls downstream of the canal spillway are in need of repairs and maintenance. There are voids in the walls where stones are missing and some of the stones have sagged out of line and grade. The missing stones should be replaced or the cavity caused by their removal should be filled with a good grade of well packed concrete.

The main dam spillway was examined. The coarse aggregate of the concrete is exposed and the fines with the cement have been washed out from around the stones of the coarse aggregate. Almost the entire face of the dam has eroded in this fashion and the structure should be repaired before erosion continues further and the situation becomes more serious. The repair to this overflow dam at this time might be much less expensive than at a later date when more of the concrete has eroded and the coarse aggregate has been washed out entirely.

It is recommended that the necessary repairs to the canal spillway cap stones, to the abutment walls of the canal spillway and to the surface of the main dam be included in your maintenance program as soon as possible. It would seem advisable to do the necessary work in 1957, prior to the cold winter weather. Delay

of the work until a later date, such as after the winter months, may result in more work being required and the cost thereof might be increased accordingly.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

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CONSULTING ENGINEERS
BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

CD Palmer
Aug. 19,1957

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find a copy of a communication sent to the General Package Division of the Diamond Match Company, regarding an inspection of their dam and canal made on August 8th. The contents of this letter are self explanatory.

Conditions at this dam and canal are not serious enough to warrant the ordering of the work being done. I am simply recommending the work be done at this time since if the company allows the present conditions to continue much longer, the cost of doing the work can become considerably greater.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

Enc.
GHM/cmb

CD Palmer
Feb. 24, 1958

General Package Division
Diamond Match Company
P. O. Box 230
Palmer, Mass.

Att: D. R. Gibbs,
Maintenance Supt.

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to your letter of Feb. 19, 1958 pertaining to the scope of the work and the specifications in connection with the maintenance of your dam and related facilities.

In regard to resetting and anchoring the capstones on the canal spillway, the steel dowels that are to be grouted in place should be specified as to number to be certain that the capstones are adequately anchored. As I recall, the capstones themselves are not too large and consequently two or three dowels per stone will probably be sufficient.

The specifications and description of the work seem satisfactory in all respects. Will you kindly notify the undersigned when the work proceeds so that an inspection can be made from time to time and a report placed on file in connection with this matter.

Very truly yours

GHM/cmb

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

CD Palmer
Feb. 25, 1958

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find a copy of a communication from the General Package Division of the Diamond Match Company in relation to certain maintenance and repair work to be done at their dam and canal facilities in the Thorndike section of Palmer. The undersigned has reviewed this work in the field with representatives of the company and recommendations regarding this work were sent to the company by your Board following receipt of our inspection report.

Enclosed also is a copy of my communication to the Diamond Match Company, General Package Division. Inspections of the proposed work will be made from time to time and a report on the work submitted for file purposes either during the work or after it has been completed depending upon conditions as the work progresses.

Very truly yours

encs.
GHM/cmb

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GENERAL PACKAGE
Division

THE DIAMOND MATCH COMPANY

Carry-Safe and Case Ace

MOLDED EGG CARTONS

GENERAL OFFICES
CHICAGO 11, U.S.A.

TEL. PALMER 930 - P. O. BOX 330
PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS
MAIL REPLY TO ABOVE ADDRESS

February 19, 1958

Mr. George H. McDonald
Tighe & Bond
Holyoke, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In regard to the letter from the Hampden County Commissioners dated December 31, 1957 relative to your inspection of our dams in Thorndike on the Ware River, we would like to submit the following specifications for your approval.

SCOPE OF WORK:
The work to be done on the main dam involves all sections of the spillway, starting 4' below the crest on the upstream face up over the crest and down the spillway to the toe of the dam.
The work to be done on the canal spillway involves the reinforcing of the old stone cap and the GUNITING of the Gate structure and both abutments.

SPECIFICATIONS - Item 1-Main Dam Spillway.

1-Remove all spalled disintegrated concrete down to good solid concrete by pneumatic chipping hammers.
2-Sandblast and waterblast the entire spillway area to be GUNITED.
3-Drill holes in sound concrete and insert 30" on centers, both directions and insert 1/4 x 2" expansion anchors.
4-Lay electrically welded wire mesh, size 4" x 4", #12 #12, over the entire spillway area attaching mesh to expansion anchors. All joints of mesh to lap by at least four (4) inches and securely tied to anchor bolts.
5-Immediately before GUNITING, waterblast entire area to remove dust, loose material and other forcing matter.
6-Apply GUNITE in two or more coats, mixed in the proportions of one (1) part standard Portland cement and four and one-half (4-1/2) parts of clean, sharp and well graded sand to a thickness of 2-1/2". Screed to line and finish with a steel trowel.

SPECIFICATIONS: Item 11-Canal Spillway.

1-Jack capstone in place.
2-Drill holes down through each top capstone and half way through granite block below.
3-Insert 3/4" steel dowels in holes and grout in place.
4-Clean out open joints in gate structure and abutment walls by sandblasting and waterblasting.
5-Apply GUNITE to all open joints in gate structure and abutments sealing all open joints and consolidating the structure.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

B. R. Gibbs

B. R. Gibbs
Maintenance Superintendent

BRG/emm

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

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CONSULTING ENGINEERS
BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

CD Palmer
Feb. 25, 1958

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find a copy of a communication from the General Package Division of the Diamond Match Company in relation to certain maintenance and repair work to be done at their dam and canal facilities in the Thorndike section of Palmer. The undersigned has reviewed this work in the field with representatives of the company and recommendations regarding this work were sent to the company by your Board following receipt of our inspection report.

Enclosed also is a copy of my communication to the Diamond Match Company, General Package Division. Inspections of the proposed work will be made from time to time and a report on the work submitted for file purposes either during the work or after it has been completed depending upon conditions as the work progresses.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

encs.
GHM/cmb

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DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

CD Palmer

Dec. 27, 1957

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Recent inspection of dams in the Town of Palmer has now completed the inspection routine in this community and all dams have been examined one or more times during 1957. The following is a report on the condition of the various dams in the Town of Palmer.

A. Central Mass. Electric Co. Dam

This structure formerly located on Quaboag River just south of the main-line tracks of the Boston and Albany Railroad and of Highway Route #20 has been completely removed by the owner. No obstruction is now located at the site of this abandoned dam.

B. V. V. McNitt Dam

Maintenance and repair work has been carried on at this structure. The concrete walls of the dam and spillway have been repaired and the spillway chute has been reinforced by improving the footings with new concrete. Conditions at this dam are satisfactory.

C. Hinkson Paper Co. Dams

These dams are located to the east of Breckenridge Street and are downstream from the Palmer Water Works Reservoirs. There are three dams in all, one located downstream and two located upstream of the mill buildings. The lower dam has been breached for years and a free waterway exists for the passage of flood flows. The middle dam was found to be satisfactory when last inspected. The Upper of the three dams has been abandoned for some time and the wash out that occurred in 1955 has never been repaired. Conditions at these three dams are satisfactory from a safety viewpoint.

D. Palmer Fire District #1 Upper Dam

This dam is satisfactory. Flashboards were found to be in place on the spillway.

E. Palmer Fire District #1 Lower Dam

The freeboard at this dam is being increased by raising the earth embankment of the dam. This will increase the safety of the structure and will aid in preventing overtopping during time of heavy runoff. The work was being carried on when last inspected on Dec. 16, and was being done in a satisfactory and workmanlike manner.

F. Holbrook Pool Dam

This structure is still breached as the result of the August, 1955 flood and a satisfactory waterway remains for the passage of flood flows.

G. Holbrook Pool Upper Dam

This structure is still breached as the result of the August, 1955 flood and a satisfactory waterway remains for the passage of flood flows.

H. Mongo Dam (Palmer Ice Co.)

Conditions at this dam are the same as previously reported. The dam is in safe condition however, the inlet to the overflow contains a grill that could be blocked by debris and in time of flood the pond could overflow on Shearer Street with flood waters passing under the Toll Highway at the access road bridge. Recommendations were previously made to have a paved channel built adjacent to the roadway for the purpose of carrying any overflowing water. No construction of this type has been done by the Toll Authority.

I. Thorndike Fire and Water District Dams

Upper Dam This structure is in very good condition. The area has been well maintained and the spillway of the dam as well as the earth embankment is satisfactory.

Lower Dam This dam is in very good condition.

J. Lake Thompson Dam

Conditions at this dam were found to be satisfactory.

K. Palmer Town Farm Dam

There is a completely new dam new under construction at the site of the old dam. The dam has a 12" concrete core wall with a stoplog spillway located in the central section. Earth fill is to be placed on both the upstream and the downstream side of the concrete core wall. A 4" drain extends thru the dam structure. The height of the structure is 8 ft. and the quantity of water to be ponded is negligible. Consequently, since the drainage area is only 2/10 of a square mile, this dam does not come under County jurisdiction.

L. State Fish Hatchery Dams

Upper Dam Conditions at this dam were found to be satisfactory.

Lower Dam Plans are being made for improvement to the spillway capacity of this dam. The spillway is situated just upstream of the highway fill carrying Route #32. It is proposed by the Dept. of Public Works to build a large culvert under the highway to replace the existing structure. In building this new culvert the spillway at the dam will be enlarged. Conditions now existing at this dam are satisfactory pending the new construction. Plans of the new construction are to be filed with your Board.

M. Forest Lake Dam

This dam is in the same general condition as reported previously and thus is satisfactory for the present time.

N. Duda Dam (formerly Midura)

Conditions at this dam were found to be satisfactory.

O. Textile Printing Co. Upper Dam

Conditions at this dam are satisfactory.

P. Textile Printing Co. Lower Dam

Conditions at this dam are satisfactory.

Q. Self-Locking Carton Co. Upper Dam

This dam was inspected and a report submitted in August of 1957. At that time it was pointed out that certain improvements and repair work are needed at the canal spillway and at the main dam. It was also pointed out that the left abutment should be watched for any progressive failure from the end that has cracked and settled. It is my understanding that the repair work is to be included in the budget request of the local plant and the carrying

out of the recommendations will probably be done in the coming winter or during 1958. This dam will be inspected from time to time to be certain that needed work is not delayed. As of the time of the last inspection on Dec. 16, the dam was satisfactory though still in need of the previously outlined maintenance work. The dike was found to be satisfactory.

R. Self-Locking Carton Co. Lower Dam

Large trees and brush growth on the earth dike downstream of this dam should be cut down and the dike kept clear of vegetation.

S. New England Power Dam (Otis Co. Dam)

This dam was found to be in satisfactory condition. Flashboards were still in place on the dam.

T. Sosur Dam

This dam is formed by the head works of the highway culvert under Springfield Street. Conditions at this structure are satisfactory from a dam safety viewpoint.

Respectfully submitted,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

Dec. 31, 1957

Self-Locking Carton Co.
Thorndike, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dams located in Thorndike on Ware River have recently been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

Maintenance work at your Upper Dam as previously discussed with our Engineer in August of 1957 should be carried on and completed within the next year if at all possible.

At your Lower Dam all tree growth, brush and miscellaneous vegetation growing on the dike just downstream of the dam should be cut down and removed. Any further information concerning these matters which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

_____
Chairman

_____

_____

Diamond National Corp Dam aka Diamond Match Company Dam



1957 Palmer

Located on Ware River - lower dam known as No.1 Mill Dam - upper dam known as No.2 Mill Dam.
Also See: Self-Locking Carton Company Dams, fka Colgan-Sherman Dams.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Diamond National Corp Dam
Dam	Diamond Match Company Dam
Name	Diamond Gardner Corp
Name	Self-Locking Carton Company
Name	Diamond Match Company
Name	Diamond National Corp
Water	Ware River

GEORGE H. MC DONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN
EDWARD J. BAYON
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

TIGHE & BOND

CONSULTING ENGINEERS
BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION
INVESTIGATIONS, REPORTS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

CD Palmer

Nov. 5,1958

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the letter from the Diamond Gardner Corp. addressed to your Board and dated Sept. 23, in connection with repairs to the dams and related facilities of that Corporation. The undersigned inspected both the Upper and Lower Dams as well as the related facilities on October 13, 1958. My report in connection with these dams was submitted with the overall report on dams in Palmer dated Oct. 16, 1958.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a communication sent to Mr. Bedson, Plant Manager of the Diamond Gardner Corp. in Palmer. The contents of this letter are self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/mb

DIAMOND GARDNER CORPORATION

GROWING FOR THE FUTURE

MOLDED PULP PRODUCTION and ENGINEERING DIVISION

PALMER MASS. PLANT

GENERAL OFFICES
122 E. 42ND ST., NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

TEL. PALMER 930 - P. O. BOX 230
PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS
MAIL REPLY TO ABOVE ADDRESS

(Formerly - Self-Locking Carton Co.,Thorndike, Mass.)

September 23, 1958

Hampden County Commissioners
Springfield, Massachusetts

Attention: William F. Stapleton, Chairman

Gentlemen:

With reference to a letter received from your office dated December 31, 1957, we wish to advise that the maintenance work on our upper dam (sometimes referred to as #2 mill dam) has been completed. The maintenance work on our #2 canal spillway has also been completed as of September 15, 1958.

We presently have a crew of our own men cutting all the tree growth, brush and miscellaneous vegetation on our dike located at #1 mill. This work should all be completed within the next ten days or two weeks, and if your engineer wishes to make an inspection of our property any time after the next several weeks, I am sure all the work will be finished.

Very truly yours,

DIAMOND GARDNER CORPORATION

H Bedson

Howard Bedson
Plant Manager

HB/sb

CC: George H. McDonnell
Tighe & Bond
Holyoke, Mass.

L. Brown
B. Gibbs
E. Monat

copy of this letter sent to George H. McDonnell, County Hydraulic Engineer, on Sept. 24, 1958.

CD Palmer
Nov. 5, 1958

Diamond Gardner Corp.
Palmer, Mass.

Att: Howard Bedson, Plant Engineer

Dear Mr. Bedson:

I have received a copy of your letter written to the County Commissioners of Hampden County dated Sept. 23, 1958, pertaining to the work being done at your dam and canal near your plant in Palmer.

An inspection of your dams and related facilities was made by the undersigned on Monday, October 13, 1958. At that time the repair work to your Upper Dam and to the canal and spillway was examined. At the Lower Dam the work of clearing all brush and tree growth from the dike had been completed. Our report to the County Commissioners on your dams and related facilities is as follows:

"Self-Locking Carton Co. Upper Dam This dam was found to be in excellent condition. Repairs to the overflow structure have been recently completed and all eroded concrete has been well covered and protected with a new layer of concrete applied with air gune. The canal wall downstream of the dam and the canal spillway were found to be in good condition. A small amount of leakage is occurring under the right abutment of the main dam. This leakage emerges at the toe. This is not serious.

The left stone abutment of the main dam where settlement and cracking was previously noted is still in the same condition but not dangerous.

The rock dike to the left of this dam constructed to close the breach caused by the flood of August, 1955 is in good condition.

Self-Locking Carton Co. Lower Dam This dam was found to be in satisfactory condition. All tree and brush growth on the canal dike has been cut down as recommended. An excellent job of removing this growth has been done. The dike was found to be in satisfactory condition."

The contents extracted from the report to the Commissioners are self-explanatory. The undersigned appreciates the fact that you notified the Board of the approximate date when the maintenance and repair work would be complete.

If I can be of any assistance to you at any time in the future, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/mb

Sept. 28, 1960

Diamond Gardner Corp.,
Thorndike, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your lower dam, situated on Ware River, in the central portion of Thorndike has recently been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

> "The dam was found to be in good condition. The dike downstream of the dam has been kept clear of brush and vegetation. At about the central portion of the dike, there was evidence that the canal had washed over the dike recently. The surface washouts should be repaired. Apparently the canal has been operated in such a manner that the water level therein rises above the level of the dike and thus influent to the canal must exceed the capacity of the canal spillway. This is not a good condition and the canal should be so operated that the water level therein will not exceed the top of the dike. If operation of the head gates and the gates at the using mill presents a problem, then the overflow capacity of the spillway should be increased. This could be done economically by shaping the dike to a pre-planned low area and then, after grading this low area, it should be paved to allow for the overflow of excess canal water to the stream bed at the left. Paving could be with either cement or asphalt concrete and the paving should be protected with proper vertical or sloping side walls, with a footing cutoff wall on the canal end and a proper paved chute on the river side, at the discharge end."

The conditions as noted by the County Hydraulic Engineer would appear to indicate that in order to adequately protect the canal dike, some change in operating procedure at the canal should be made or, the recommended added spillway facilities be constructed across and thru the dike. If you wish to discuss this matter with

the County Hydraulic Engineer, Mr. McDonnell can be reached at Holyoke, JE 3-3991. We would be pleased to have him provide you with any advice, guidance or information in connection with hydraulic and structural matters to insure the safety of the canal dike.

If you have any further questions in connection with this matter or, if we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call upon our Board.

Very truly yours

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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DIAMOND NATIONAL CORPORATION

GROWING FOR THE FUTURE

MOLDED-PACKAGING DIVISION

PALMER MASS. PLANT

GENERAL OFFICES
122 E. 42ND ST., NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

TEL. PALMER 930-P. O. BOX 230
PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS
MAIL REPLY TO ABOVE ADDRESS

October 6, 1960

Board of County Commissioners
County of Hampden
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

SUBJECT: INSPECTION REPORT ON #1 MILL DAM

Gentlemen:

We wish to acknowledge receipt of your inspection report covering our lower dam in the Ware River, commonly referred to as #1 Mill dam.

The surface washouts on the dike at this location were repaired on October 6, 1960. Seventy eight yards of gravel were dumped and leveled by a local contractor, bringing the dike back to its original grade.

We are also following your recommendation regarding a change in operating procedure by installing a high and low water level warning system in the canals at both #1 and #2 Mills. This warning system will be connected to a panel in a constantly attended area in #2 Mill, and will give the operating personnel an audible as well as visual warning in the event of an abnormal water level in either canal. This system should be installed and in operation no later than November 1, 1960.

The comments of your Hydraulic Engineer, Mr. McDonnell, regarding the dike and our operating procedures are most certainly welcome and appropriate. We thank you for bringing them to our attention.

Very truly yours,

DIAMOND NATIONAL CORPORATION

H C Bedson

Howard C. Bedson
Plant Manager

HCB:ark

cc: Mr. McDonnell

copy of this letter sent to
Mr. G.H.McDonnell on Oct.11,1960.

GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN
EDWARD J. BAYON

TIGHE & BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
INVESTIGATIONS, REPORTS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

CD Palmer
April 13, 1964

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

I have received the copy of a communication dated March 31, 1964, written by Theodore R. Knapp, Secretary of the Lake Thompson Civic Association, pertaining to the problem of the water level in Lake Thompson at Palmer. There is no indication on the communication as to the person or Agency to whom the communication was written. I assume that it was sent to your Board in the hope that Hampden County might aid the Association in solving their problem.

The problem appears to be that the State Fish Hatchery located downstream of Lake Thompson has been drawing water from the lake to maintain sufficient water in the hatchery for operational purposes. The problem is not one that has to do with the safety of the dam and thus, I do not see how the County can be of any assistance to the residents around the lake and to the Lake Thompson Civic Association under the provisions of Chapt. 253 of the General Laws.

If Mr. Knapp has written the communication to your Board, it is recommended that the communication be answered and Mr. Knapp be advised to take up the matter with the local, as well as the Boston office of the Dept. of Fisheries. The Lake Thompson Civic Association might also request the aid of their Representative in the State Legislature in arriving at the solution to the problem of the local fishery drawing off water from Lake Thompson.

If the undersigned can be of any further assistance in connection with this matter, I would be pleased to discuss this problem with your Board or with representatives of the Lake Thompson Civic Association. I enclose herewith a suggested letter that could be forwarded to the Association, if you concur with its contents.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb
enc.

CD Palmer
April 13, 1964

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

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enc.

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County Hydraulic Engineer

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April 13, 1964

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Hampden County Court House
Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

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Very truly yours

GHM/cmb
enc.

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

April 15, 1964

Lake Thompson Civic Association
Lake Thompson
Palmer, Massachusetts

Attention: Theodore R. Knapp, Secretary

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the communication of March 31, 1964 and to the problem of water level in Lake Thompson being lowered in recent years apparently as a result of water being drawn off for use by the State Fish Hatchery downstream.

In cases of this nature, the County Commissioners have no power to act. In accordance with the terms of Chapter 253 of the General Laws, our Board can only take action when the safety of persons and property downstream are endangered as a result of conditions at a dam. Based on the last report received from the County Hydraulic Engineer, the dam at Lake Thompson was in good condition.

Lowering of the water level would not endanger the dam in any way and consequently, there is no official action that our Board can take.

The problem would appear to be one of water rights and thus a solution to the problem would, of necessity, be worked out between the parties involved, taking into account the rights and privileges that each have in connection with the ponded water and water flowing in the stream.

As pointed out in your communication, a health hazard existed as the result of lowering of the water level because shallow wells failed to maintain a suitable operating water elevation. We note that the Board of Health of Palmer assisted the members of your Association by apparently negotiating the matter with the State Fish Hatchery and the lowering of the lake was stopped.

It is suggested that the matter be taken up by your Association with the officials of the local hatchery as well as the officials in the Boston office of the Department of

Fisheries. You might also discuss the problem with your representatives in the State Legislature. They may be able to assist you in carrying on negotiations with the Boston officials in the Department of Fisheries.

In summary, since our jurisdiction has only to do with the safety of the dam at the lake, we can take no official action in your case. In addition to the suggestions outlined herinabove, you might have your attorney check the water rights of the members of your Association bordering the lake. He could also investigate any water rights held by the local Fishery and then could advise you as to what action to take. We are sorry that we cannot be of any official help to you in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Board of County Commissioners

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts

County of Hampden

Springfield, Mass.

Office of the
County Commissioners
52 State Street

William F. Stapleton
Chairman
Ralph P. Walsh
Lloyd W. Fradet

June 12, 1968

Diamond National Corporation
Thorndike,
Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your lower dam and its related dike situated in the central portion of Thorndike, has recently been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

"The dam itself is in good condition. There is some erosion of the concrete of the overflow section but the erosion is normal and not as yet very deep. There were no flashboards on the crest of the overflow and water was passing over the crest at the time of inspection.

The left stone masonry abutment and the related heavy stone fill back of this abutment and between the abutment and the railroad tracks were all o.k.

At the right abutment of the dam the concrete wall is in satisfactory condition. However, at the canal gatehouse, the concrete grouted cobblestone paving at the left side of the canal is showing signs of movement. Individual cobblestones are moving away from the grout which formerly bound the stones together. Also, the top of the sloping canal wall is breaking up and a large slab of concrete has been broken off. The cause of this movement should be checked and corrective action taken if need be.

The canal dike was noted to be in good condition. The spillway in the dike had been repaired by construction of a new concrete wall at the left side and entrance to the spillway. The concrete in the canal spillway side walls is eroded on the surface but erosion is still not bad enough to require attention."

If you have any further question in connection with this matter, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Bondsville, Mass.
April, 7. 1947

County Commissioners

Dear Siris,

I Frederick Holcomb 68 Griffin St Bondsville Owning property on said St. Bounded by A. J. Midura of Palmer. Mass, Owning property formerly owned by Boston Duck Co. Which contains about 35 Acres of land including a pond of about 2-3 Acres. Mr Midura has raised the level of this pond Appr. 2 feet above the level which it has been kept at. Therfor by doing this he has pushed the water back onto my land turning it into a regular swamp hole, in the Summer it smells so we cannot stay outside as the water is just laying there. I am afraid that it will affect my well which I use all the time as it is my only source of water. Before Mr Midura purchased this property a few years back we had no trouble here at all. when I asked him to do something about the matter he told me he was going to sell it as he did not want to bother with it. He has since given it a realestate Agent to sell. so I would like to clear this matter up before it changes hands

I wish you would give me some advise as what to do. Enclose you will find a self addressed envelope for you reply

Thanking you I remain

Yours truly

Frederick E. Holcomb

P. O. Box 133 Bondsville, Mass

Copy of this letter mailed to Tighe & Bond, Engineers on April 10, 1947.

JAMES L. TIGHE
PHILIP E. BOND
TELEPHONE
HOLYOKE 5525

TIGHE & BOND
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
189 HIGH STREET
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
WATER POWER
DAMS

April 22, 1947

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County, Court House
Springfield, Massachusetts

Charles W. Bray, Chairman

Dear Sir:

In reference to the complaint of Frederick Holcomb, 68 Griffin Street, Bondsville, Massachusetts, relative to the Midura Dam in Bondsville in which Mr. Holcomb states that Mr. Midura has raised the level of the pond in back of the dam approximately 2 feet causing a nuisance and the flooding of the Holcomb property; I submit the following:

This dam was formerly the Boston Duck Company reservoir dam and was used by that company for process water. The overflow was a pipe laid through the dam 12 inches in diameter with a vertical riser for regulating the elevation of the surface of the pond.

When the pond was used for process water, the draft of Boston Duck Company was such that the water level in the pond was usually considerably below the overflow level. During the 1938 flood, the overflow became plugged and the dam was topped and breached so that until it was rebuilt in 1943, there was little water in the pond.

In 1943, Mr. Midura purchased the property, repaired the dam, cleaned out the overflow pipe and put the structure in good condition. The upper end of the overflow pipe, that is the upper 12 inches of the pipe, is now a vitrified pipe, below this is the original old cast iron pipe that acted as an overflow when the property was owned by the Boston Duck Company. Mr. Midura claims that the 12 inch vitrified pipe was at the site of the overflow when he purchased the property and he believes that the Boston Duck Company maintained the pond at its present level by using the 12 inch vitrified pipe. Mr. Midura also placed a fish screen around the overflow which raised the water level somewhat above the 12 inch level.

Mr. Holcomb contends that the top of the old cast iron pipe was the maximum height of the pond when it was owned by the Boston Duck Company. A physical survey of the site leads me to believe that Mr. Holcomb is correct. However, since 1943 when Mr. Midura reconstructed the dam, the pond level has been from 12 inches to 14 inches above the old cast iron pipe and this has caused some flooding of the Holcomb property.

Mr. Midura has agreed to permanently remove the fish screen as a safety measure, and in addition, Mr. Midura broke out some of the vitrified pipe so that it would appear that the pond will drop 3 or 4 inches below the level it has been maintained at since 1943. There appears to be no question as to the safety or stability of the structure.

Summarizing, it appears probable that Mr. Midura has raised the pond level above the old level maintained by the Boston Duck Company and has caused some flooding of the Holcomb property but that this raising of the pond has not affected the stability or safety of the structure.

Respectfully submitted,

TIGHE & BOND

By Philip E. Bond

April 23, 1947

Mr. Frederick E. Holcomb,
P. O. Box 133,
Bondsville, Mass.

Dear Mr. Holcomb:

Your letter of April 7, 1947 addressed to the Hampden County Commissioners relative to the dam being maintained by one, A.J.Midura, formerly owned by the Boston Duck Company, has been referred to me for acknowledgment and reply. Upon its receipt, the Commissioners referred your letter to the County Engineer for an investigation and report. The Engineer's report was received this day and is on file in this office.

Under the existing statutes, the jurisdiction of County Commissioners over dams is confined to protecting lives and property of persons below the dam. Our Engineer's report states "there appears to be no question as to the safety or stability of the structure." Under these circumstances, the County Commissioners have no authority over the height of the dam, and if any trespass upon your property is resulting from the backflow, then it is a matter for you to take up with your own personal attorney.

For your information, our Engineer stated that Midura agreed to permanently remove the fish screen as a safety measure, and in addition Midura broke off some of the vitrified pipe so that the pond will drop 3 or 4 inches below the level at which it has been maintained.

We trust that this information may be of some assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

COUNSEL FOR THE HAMPDEN
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

TTM/N

Duda Dam fka Otis Company Reservoir Dam



- **Palmer**

Dam and pond located on a small tributary of the Swift River upsteam of Bondsville Center.

Abutters	Holcomb, Frederick E
City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Duda Dam
Name	Duda, Joseph S
Name	Boston Duck Company
Name	Midura, R J
Name	Otis Company Reservoir Dam
Water	Swift River

CD Palmer
April 6, 1962

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a suggested form of communication to be sent to Mr. Holcomb of Bondsville in connection with the Duda dam problem. If you concur in the contents of the letter, it could be forwarded. Also, if you think it advisable, copies of my letter of report or your letter to Mr. Duda could be included. Perhaps the letter to Mr. Holcomb, as enclosed, is sufficiently complete for the needs of answering his original complaint.

Very truly yours

GHM/cmb
enc.

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

CD Palmer
April 6, 1962

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

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Very truly yours

GHM/cmb
enc.

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

April 10, 1962

Mr. Fred E. Holcomb
68 Griffin Street
Bondsville, Mass.

Dear Mr. Holcomb:

Reference is made to your communication of March 30, 1962 and to our communication of April 4, 1962, in regard to the water level of the Duda pond adjacent to your property in Bondsville.

The County Hydraulic Engineer has made an inspection of the dam and pond. His report has been submitted to us and we have notified Mr. Duda to restore conditions at the dam to those existing prior to the changes made in the recent past to the spillway facility.

Further inspections of the dam will be made in the near future, to be certain that the structure is maintained in a safe condition.

Under Chapt. 253 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Mass., wherein dams come under the jurisdiction of the County Commissioners, our Board can take action when a dam is changed, altered or operated in such a manner as to endanger persons and property downstream. Because the Owner of the Duda dam made changes in the spillway facility which resulted in the raising of the pond level, these changes also decreased the safety factor of the dam and have resulted in making the dam an improper and unsafe structure. Normally problems of high water upstream of a dam do not come under the jurisdiction of our Board. This is usually a matter to be ironed out between the Owner of the pond and the person whose land is flooded. However, since the case at hand included the problem of safety of the dam, our Board has directed that the pond be lowered and the dam restored to its normal spillway facility condition.

Very truly yours

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

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April 25, 1962

Mr. Joseph S. Duda
205 Main Street
Bondsville, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, pertaining to the safety and inspection of dams, the County Hydraulic Engineer has reported to our Board regarding his inspection of your dam, in your presence, on April 19, 1962. The contents of the inspection reported are provided as follows:

"The undersigned reinspected the dam and pond on Thursday morning, April 19, 1962, in the presence of Mr. Joseph Duda. The pond was found to be nearly empty and the overflow pipe thru the dam embankment clean and functioning.

In my letter report to your Board, I had previously pointed out that there was no evidence of the vertical spillway pipe being in place in the spillway structure and that from the small trickle of water that was found emerging from the end of the pipeline at the toe of the dam, it appeared to the undersigned as if the upstream end of the spillway pipe had been plugged.

Mr. Duda informed me that the pipe had become accidentally plugged with debris and presented evidence of a board, leaves and miscellaneous debris taken from the 12" spillway pipe. It is apparent that this debris got into the pipe and reduced the capacity of the spillway pipe to such an extent that the heavy Spring runoff became ponded behind the dam. Mr. Duda had not reactivated the dam thru any positive action of his own but the structure became active automatically when the Spring runoff exceeded the capacity of the debris-plugged spillway pipe.

On removing the debris from the pipe, the water in storage receded rapidly. In regard to the trench cut across the top of the earth embankment of the dam, Mr. Duda proposed to the

undersigned, during our inspection of April 19, that he install a pipeline in this trench to extend across the dam in such a manner that should the main spillway pipe become accidently plugged again, there will be a safety overflow where the trench now exists. After placing the pipeline in this trench, Mr. Duda will pack in impervious earth around and above the pipe to seal the embankment at this location.

Mr. Duda does not intend to activate his pond for a number of years. He has no use for the pond as of the present time and will maintain the drain open and free of debris. By periodic inspection of the drain, Mr. Duda will be able to keep debris from building up in the pipe again. He also plans to remove debris from the spillway structure and the area immediately surrounding it so there will be little or no chance of this debris being washed into the pipeline in time of high rate of flood flow. Also, Mr. Duda will make inspections and carry on routine periodic maintenance of the drain line, particularly in advance of the Fall rainy season and again in advance of each Spring runoff season.

Since Mr. Duda will be keeping the pond empty and will be maintaining the drain pipe as agreed, there will be no need for the Owner to provide the swale spillway as suggested in my report to your Board.

In summary, conditions at the Duda dam are now satisfactory. The flooding due to high water behind the dam was not because of positive action and changes in the spillway by the Owner but, rather was directly related to debris plugging the pipeline. An inspection program and maintenance program by the Owner will prevent an accidental plugging of the drain again."

In view of the findings by the County Hydraulic Engineer, once the pond had been lowered and the dam returned to an inactive state, it will not be necessary for you to take any further action in this matter. The emergency spillway pipe, as proposed by you, to be installed in the channel cut across the top of your earth embankment, may be installed provided the trench is backfilled with suitable impervious material, as discussed with you during the inspection by the County Hydraulic Engineer.

When and if you decide to reactivate your dam on a permanent basis, please notify this Board and the County Hydraulic Engineer will again make an inspection and discuss the desirability of an emergency swale-type spillway. In the meantime, please check the spillway drain pipe at frequent intervals to be certain it does not become plugged. Also, any debris lying around the pond bottom, particularly in the vicinity of the spillway structure should be picked up and removed.

Routine inspections of your dam will be made from time to time and a general report on the condition of your dam maintained in County files. This is a routine matter and such inspections have been carried on annually in the past. From these inspection reports, we have noted that your pond has been kept empty for the last two years.

Our Board appreciates your cooperation in connection with this matter and in the lowering of the pond immediately after receiving notification.

Very truly yours

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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April 23, 1962

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the matter at the dam of Joseph S. Duda of 205 Main Street, in Bondsville, wherein the water level in the pond formed by the dam was backing onto property of a neighbor, as reported in a communication from Mr. Fred E. Holcomb to your Board and dated March 30, 1962. Reference is made to my letter report of April 5, 1962 on the matter following my inspection of the dam and pond on Wednesday, April 4, 1962.

The undersigned reinspected the dam and pond on Thursday morning, April 19, 1962, in the presence of Mr. Joseph Duda. The pond was found to be nearly empty and the overflow pipe thru the dam embankment clean and functioning.

In my letter report to your Board, I had previously pointed out that there was no evidence of the vertical spillway pipe being in place in the spillway structure and that from the small trickle of water that was found emerging from the end of the pipeline at the toe of the dam, it appeared to the undersigned as if the upstream end of the spillway pipe had been plugged.

Mr. Duda informed me that the pipe had become accidentally plugged with debris and presented evidence of a board, leaves and miscellaneous debris taken from the 12" spillway pipe. It is apparent that this debris got into the pipe and reduced the capacity of the spillway pipe to such an extent that the heavy Spring runoff became ponded behind the dam. Mr. Duda had not reactived the dam thru any positive action of his own but the structure became active automatically when the Spring runoff exceeded the capacity of the debris-plugged spillway pipe.

On removing the debris from the pipe, the water in storage receded rapidly. In regard to the trench cut across the top of the earth embankment of the dam, Mr. Duda proposed to the undersigned, during our inspection of April 19, that he install a pipeline in this trench to extend across the dam in such a manner that should the main spillway pipe become accidentally plugged again, there will be a safety overflow where the trench now exists. After placing the pipeline in this trench, Mr. Duda will pack in impervious earth around and above the pipe to seal the embankment at this location.

Mr. Duda does not intend to activate his pond for a number of years. He has no use for the pond as of the present time and will maintain the drain open and free of debris. By periodic inspection of the drain, Mr. Duda will be able to keep debris from building up in the pipe again. He also plans to remove debris from the spillway structure and the area immediately surrounding it so there will be little or no chance of this debris being washed into the pipeline in time of high rate of flood flow. Also, Mr. Duda will make inspections and carry on routine periodic maintenance of the drain line, particularly in advance of the Fall rainy season and again in advance of each Spring runoff season.

Since Mr. Duda will be keeping the pond empty and will be maintaining the drain pipe as agreed, there will be no need for the Owner to provide the swale spillway as suggested in my report to your Board.

In summary, conditions at the Duda dam are now satisfactory. The flooding due to high water behind the dam was not because of positive action and changes in the spillway by the Owner but, rather was directly related to debris plugging the pipeline. An inspection program and maintenance program by the Owner will prevent an accidental plugging of the drain again.

Respectfully submitted

GHM/cmb

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

April 23, 1962

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

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Mr. Duda informed me that the pipe had become accidentally plugged with debris and presented evidence of a board, leaves and miscellaneous debris taken from the 12" spillway pipe. It is apparent that this debris got into the pipe and reduced the capacity of the spillway pipe to such an extent that the heavy Spring runoff became ponded behind the dam. Mr. Duda had not reactived the dam thru any positive action of his own but the structure became active automatically when the Spring runoff exceeded the capacity of the debris-plugged spillway pipe.

On removing the debris from the pipe, the water in storage receded rapidly. In regard to the trench cut across the top of the earth embankment of the dam, Mr. Duda proposed to the undersigned, during our inspection of April 19, that he install a pipeline in this trench to extend across the dam in such a manner that should the main spillway pipe become accidentally plugged again, there will be a safety overflow where the trench now exists. After placing the pipeline in this trench, Mr. Duda will pack in impervious earth around and above the pipe to seal the embankment at this location.

Mr. Duda does not intend to activate his pond for a number of years. He has no use for the pond as of the present time and will maintain the drain open and free of debris. By periodic inspection of the drain, Mr. Duda will be able to keep debris from building up in the pipe again. He also plans to remove debris from the spillway structure and the area immediately surrounding it so there will be little or no chance of this debris being washed into the pipeline in time of high rate of flood flow. Also, Mr. Duda will make inspections and carry on routine periodic maintenance of the drain line, particularly in advance of the Fall rainy season and again in advance of each Spring runoff season.

Since Mr. Duda will be keeping the pond empty and will be maintaining the drain pipe as agreed, there will be no need for the Owner to provide the swale spillway as suggested in my report to your Board.

In summary, conditions at the Duda dam are now satisfactory. The flooding due to high water behind the dam was not because of positive action and changes in the spillway by the Owner but, rather was directly related to debris plugging the pipeline. An inspection program and maintenance program by the Owner will prevent an accidental plugging of the drain again.

Respectfully submitted

GHM/cmb

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN
EDWARD J. BAYON

TIGHE & BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
INVESTIGATIONS, REPORTS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

April 23, 1962

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the matter at the dam of Joseph S. Duda of 205 Main Street, in Bondsville, wherein the water level in the pond formed by the dam was backing onto property of a neighbor, as reported in a communication from Mr. Fred E. Holcomb to your Board and dated March 30, 1962. Reference is made to my letter report of April 5, 1962 on the matter following my inspection of the dam and pond on Wednesday, April 4, 1962.

The undersigned reinspected the dam and pond on Thursday morning, April 19, 1962, in the presence of Mr. Joseph Duda. The pond was found to be nearly empty and the overflow pipe thru the dam embankment clean and functioning.

In my letter report to your Board, I had previously pointed out that there was no evidence of the vertical spillway pipe being in place in the spillway structure and that from the small trickle of water that was found emerging from the end of the pipeline at the toe of the dam, it appeared to the undersigned as if the upstream end of the spillway pipe had been plugged.

Mr. Duda informed me that the pipe had become accidentally plugged with debris and presented evidence of a board, leaves and miscellaneous debris taken from the 12" spillway pipe. It is apparent that this debris got into the pipe and reduced the capacity of the spillway pipe to such an extent that the heavy Spring runoff became ponded behind the dam. Mr. Duda had not reactived the dam thru any positive action of his own but the structure became active automatically when the Spring runoff exceeded the capacity of the debris-plugged spillway pipe.

On removing the debris from the pipe, the water in storage receded rapidly. In regard to the trench cut across the top of the earth embankment of the dam, Mr. Duda proposed to the undersigned, during our inspection of April 19, that he install a pipeline in this trench to extend across the dam in such a manner that should the main spillway pipe become accidentally plugged again, there will be a safety overflow where the trench now exists. After placing the pipeline in this trench, Mr. Duda will pack in impervious earth around and above the pipe to seal the embankment at this location.

Mr. Duda does not intend to activate his pond for a number of years. He has no use for the pond as of the present time and will maintain the drain open and free of debris. By periodic inspection of the drain, Mr. Duda will be able to keep debris from building up in the pipe again. He also plans to remove debris from the spillway structure and the area immediately surrounding it so there will be little or no chance of this debris being washed into the pipeline in time of high rate of flood flow. Also, Mr. Duda will make inspections and carry on routine periodic maintenance of the drain line, particularly in advance of the Fall rainy season and again in advance of each Spring runoff season.

Since Mr. Duda will be keeping the pond empty and will be maintaining the drain pipe as agreed, there will be no need for the Owner to provide the swale spillway as suggested in my report to your Board.

In summary, conditions at the Duda dam are now satisfactory. The flooding due to high water behind the dam was not because of positive action and changes in the spillway by the Owner but, rather was directly related to debris plugging the pipeline. An inspection program and maintenance program by the Owner will prevent an accidental plugging of the drain again.

Respectfully submitted

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN
EDWARD J. BAYON

TIGHE & BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
INVESTIGATIONS, REPORTS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

CD Palmer
April 6, 1962

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a suggested form of communication to be sent to Mr. Holcomb of Bondsville in connection with the Duda dam problem. If you concur in the contents of the letter, it could be forwarded. Also, if you think it advisable, copies of my letter of report or your letter to Mr. Duda could be included. Perhaps the letter to Mr. Holcomb, as enclosed, is sufficiently complete for the needs of answering his original complaint.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb
enc.

GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN
EDWARD J. BAYON

TIGHE & BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
INVESTIGATIONS, REPORTS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

April 5, 1962

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the communication received by your Board from Fred E. Holcomb of Bondsville, Mass., relative to the flooding of property owned by Mr. Holcomb, due to the fact that water in storage in a pond owned by his neighbor, a Mr. Duda, is at an exceptionally high level, as the result of changes made to the dam owned by Mr. Duda.

The undersigned inspected the dam and the pond on Wednesday afternoon, April 4, 1962, and reports as follows:

The dam and pond in question is the former Otis Company Reservoir dam and once was owned by the Boston Duck Company. This dam and pond eventually became the property of a Mr. Midura and about 10 years or so ago, the dam and pond were acquired by a Mr. Duda in Bondsville.

The dam and pond are located on a small tributary of the Swift River at a point just upstream of Bondsville Center. The dam is an earthen embankment, slightly more than 400 ft. in length and approximately 10 ft. in height at the point of the pond's greatest depth. The top width of the dam is approximately 10 ft. The dam forms a reservoir containing an estimated 2 million gallons of water. The structure was built for the purpose of impounding a water supply and for the purpose of fire protection at the downstream manufacturing plant. Thru the dam is located an overflow pipe, 12-inches in diameter.

Problems have occurred in the past regarding high water at this pond and reports in connection therewith were submitted to your Honorable

Board on April 22, 1947 and again on May 27, 1953.

When the dam was last inspected in 1961, it was found that the pond was empty and no water had been stored for some time. On Wednesday, April 4, 1962, it was found that the dam had been reactivated and water was stored to an exceptionally high elevation.

The normal spillway has been a vertical pipe connected to the pipe thru the embankment. Whenever the flow of water in the pond reached or exceeded the lip of the vertical pipe opening, pond water passed down thru the pipe and under the dam embankment. The top of a stone masonry structure at the spillway was normally above water level and in the past a plank cover rested on the masonry. As of now, the water level is so high that the entire masonry structure is under water. There is no evidence of the vertical pipe being in place and from the small trickle of water that emerges from the end of this pipeline at the toe of the dam, it would appear as if the upstream end of the spillway pipe has been plugged.

To the right of the main spillway someone has dug a narrow trench thru the earth embankment and water is now allowed to pass across the earth embankment in this trench. Because the embankment is fairly well compacted and because of heavy root structure, the flowing water has not eaten thru the embankment to any great depth. However, it can be noticed at the downstream end of this channel, embankment material is being washed away and the embankment is being cut deeper and deeper with each passing day. Eventually, a breach will occur thru the dam and the pond will be released.

There is further evidence of the fact that the water level is higher than normal and proper, in that most of the trees growing from the upstream edge of the embankment are now inundated at the base and root level. These trees, if allowed to remain under the level of the pond, will die and become a danger to the structure.

It is recommended that the Owner of the dam be directed to immediately lower the level of the pond in a safe and proper manner and to restore the spillway facilities to the condition that existed prior to the unauthorized changes that have been made. It is further recommended that the Owner be directed to provide a proper swale spillway at the right end of the dam to allow for the automatic release of any surplus water and prevent the recurrence of the conditions as now noted.

I have sent a letter directly to Mr. Duda in order that he may be immediately warned of the dangerous condition at his dam and in order that he may take corrective action within the next day or two. I tried to reach Mr. Duda in person while at the site, during the inspection on Wednesday, April 4. However, no one was at home and I could find no one around the property adjacent to the house and pond. I will continue to try and reach Mr. Duda by telephone. In any event, the letter mailed directly to Mr. Duda will give him written notice of the fact that conditions at the dam are not proper and he will thus have ample and immediate notice that corrective action should be taken. A copy of my letter to Mr. Duda is enclosed for your files.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb
enc.

GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN
EDWARD J. BAYON

TIGHE & BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
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BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

CD Palmer
April 3, 1962

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the copy of the communication dated March 30, 1962, received by your Board from Fred E. Holcomb of Bondsville, Mass. When I last inspected the Duda dam, the pond had been drawn down and no water had been stored for some time. It is apparent that at some time since my inspection of the dam in 1961, the Owner has reactivated the structure and filled the pond.

I will inspect the dam prior to the end of this week and will also call on Mr. Holcomb to discuss the matter. A report in connection therewith will then be forwarded to your Board.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

April 4, 1962

Mr. Fred E. Holcomb
Bondsville, Mass.

Dear Mr. Holcomb:

Reference is made to your letter of March 30, 1962, pertaining to the level of the pond on property of Mr. Duda.

Our Board has directed the County Hydraulic Engineer to investigate the matter as explained by you and to report back to our Board on the conditions at the dam.

As soon as the dam has been checked in the field and the County Hydraulic Engineer has made his report, we will provide you with a review of his findings and any action that our Board can take under the Law.

Very truly yours

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

_____

_____

_____

Bondsville, Mass
3/30/62

Hampden County Comm.

Dear Sirs.

In regards to a pond being the property of Mr Duda formerly the property of Boston Duck Co. As to May 27-1953 Mr McDonnell Met Mr Duda and he agreed at that time it would be kept at the level of the overflow pipe. On the past few months the overflow Pipe has been removed and raised in some manner So that the water is higher than ever. I would like to know if you have had word on

over

Making any changes in the overflow of this pond. I will expect to hear or see you soon.

Thank you
Fred E. Holcomb
Bondsville, Mass

(Copy of this letter mailed to George H. McDonnell, April 2, 1962.)

FRED E. HOLCOMB
68 GRIFFIN ST.
BONDSVILLE, MASS.

April 5, 1962

Mr. Joseph S. Duda
205 Main Street
Bondsville, Mass.

Dear Mr. Duda:

On Wednesday, April 4, 1962, the undersigned inspected the dam located on your property in Bondsville and formerly the property of Midura, as well as the Boston Duck Company. The inspection was made at the direction of the County Commissioners of Hampden County, in my capacity as County Hydraulic Engineer.

It was noted that the small pond to the rear of your house was full to above the level of the normal spillway elevation and that certain conditions now exist that are dangerous to the safety of the dam.

It was noted that the main spillway pipe is not discharging its full capacity. A small trickle of water emerges from the downstream end, while the upstream end is inundated and the water level of the pond completely submerges the stone masonry of the intake structure well. In the past, this masonry has always been above water level and at times a plank cover rested on the masonry. It too was above water level. Such a cover would not be above water level based on conditions noted on April 4.

Also, it was noted that a channel has been cut across the embankment of the dam and water is being released in this channel. The water is cutting the channel deeper and deeper. Eventually, the channel could become a breach and the dam could fail.

Trees growing from the upstream face of the earth embankment are under water and, if the condition continues, these trees undoubtedly will die. This is further evidence that the water level in the pond is above proper elevation.

In order to protect the dam from failure and prevent possible damage

to the public highway downstream, the water level in the pond should be lowered immediately and kept lowered until such time as the spillway facility is restored to its proper condition. Consideration should also be given to the construction of a swale-type spillway across the embankment of the dam at the extreme right end. This could act as an emergency spillway, should the water rise a few inches above level at which it must be normally maintained.

In lowering the water level in the pond, be certain that it is released slowly thru the proper spillway pipe, so as not to damage the public highway downstream.

The undersigned would be pleased to meet with you, if you so request, to discuss this problem.

A report on this condition has been forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners and no doubt you will soon receive a communication from the Board in connection with your dam. I am writing to you at this time because I believe the situation needs immediate attention and the water level of the pond should be lowered without delay.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

April 5, 1962

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the communication received by your Board from Fred E. Holcomb of Bondsville, Mass., relative to the flooding of property owned by Mr. Holcomb, due to the fact that water in storage in a pond owned by his neighbor, a Mr. Duda, is at an exceptionally high level, as the result of changes made to the dam owned by Mr. Duda.

The undersigned inspected the dam and the pond on Wednesday afternoon, April 4, 1962, and reports as follows:

The dam and pond in question is the former Otis Company Reservoir dam and once was owned by the Boston Duck Company. This dam and pond eventually became the property of a Mr. Midura and about 10 years or so ago, the dam and pond were acquired by a Mr. Duda in Bondsville.

The dam and pond are located on a small tributary of the Swift River at a point just upstream of Bondsville Center. The dam is an earthen embankment, slightly more than 400 ft. in length and approximately 10 ft. in height at the point of the pond's greatest depth. The top width of the dam is approximately 10 ft. The dam forms a reservoir containing an estimated 2 million gallons of water. The structure was built for the purpose of impounding a water supply and for the purpose of fire protection at the downstream manufacturing plant. Thru the dam is located an overflow pipe, 12-inches in diameter.

Problems have occurred in the past regarding high water at this pond and reports in connection therewith were submitted to your Honorable

Board on April 22, 1947 and again on May 27, 1953.

When the dam was last inspected in 1961, it was found that the pond was empty and no water had been stored for some time. On Wednesday, April 4, 1962, it was found that the dam had been reactivated and water was stored to an exceptionally high elevation.

The normal spillway has been a vertical pipe connected to the pipe thru the embankment. Whenever the flow of water in the pond reached or exceeded the lip of the vertical pipe opening, pond water passed down thru the pipe and under the dam embankment. The top of a stone masonry structure at the spillway was normally above water level and in the past a plank cover rested on the masonry. As of now, the water level is so high that the entire masonry structure is under water. There is no evidence of the vertical pipe being in place and from the small trickle of water that emerges from the end of this pipeline at the toe of the dam, it would appear as if the upstream end of the spillway pipe has been plugged.

To the right of the main spillway someone has dug a narrow trench thru the earth embankment and water is now allowed to pass across the earth embankment in this trench. Because the embankment is fairly well compacted and because of heavy root structure, the flowing water has not eaten thru the embankment to any great depth. However, it can be noticed at the downstream end of this channel, embankment material is being washed away and the embankment is being cut deeper and deeper with each passing day. Eventually, a breach will occur thru the dam and the pond will be released.

There is further evidence of the fact that the water level is higher than normal and proper, in that most of the trees growing from the upstream edge of the embankment are now inundated at the base and root level. These trees, if allowed to remain under the level of the pond, will die and become a danger to the structure.

It is recommended that the Owner of the dam be directed to immediately lower the level of the pond in a safe and proper manner and to restore the spillway facilities to the condition that existed prior to the unauthorized changes that have been made. It is further recommended that the Owner be directed to provide a proper swale spillway at the right end of the dam to allow for the automatic release of any surplus water and prevent the recurrence of the conditions as now noted.

I have sent a letter directly to Mr. Duda in order that he may be immediately warned of the dangerous condition at his dam and in order that he may take corrective action within the next day or two. I tried to reach Mr. Duda in person while at the site, during the inspection on Wednesday, April 4. However, no one was at home and I could find no one around the property adjacent to the house and pond. I will continue to try and reach Mr. Duda by telephone. In any event, the letter mailed directly to Mr. Duda will give him written notice of the fact that conditions at the dam are not proper and he will thus have ample and immediate notice that corrective action should be taken. A copy of my letter to Mr. Duda is enclosed for your files.

Very truly yours

GHM/cmb
enc.

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

April 5, 1962

Mr. Joseph S. Duda
205 Main Street
Bondsville, Mass.

Dear Mr. Duda:

On Wednesday, April 4, 1962, the undersigned inspected the dam located on your property in Bondsville and formerly the property of Midura, as well as the Boston Duck Company. The inspection was made at the direction of the County Commissioners of Hampden County, in my capacity as County Hydraulic Engineer.

It was noted that the small pond to the rear of your house was full to above the level of the normal spillway elevation and that certain conditions now exist that are dangerous to the safety of the dam.

It was noted that the main spillway pipe is not discharging its full capacity. A small trickle of water emerges from the downstream end, while the upstream end is inundated and the water level of the pond completely submerges the stone masonry of the intake structure well. In the past, this masonry has always been above water level and at times a plank cover rested on the masonry. It too was above water level. Such a cover would not be above water level based on conditions noted on April 4.

Also, it was noted that a channel has been cut across the embankment of the dam and water is being released in this channel. The water is cutting the channel deeper and deeper. Eventually, the channel could become a breach and the dam could fail.

Trees growing from the upstream face of the earth embankment are under water and, if the condition continues, these trees undoubtedly will die. This is further evidence that the water level in the pond is above proper elevation.

In order to protect the dam from failure and prevent possible damage

to the public highway downstream, the water level in the pond should be lowered immediately and kept lowered until such time as the spillway facility is restored to its proper condition. Consideration should also be given to the construction of a swale-type spillway across the embankment of the dam at the extreme right end. This could act as an emergency spillway, should the water rise a few inches above level at which it must be normally maintained.

In lowering the water level in the pond, be certain that it is released slowly thru the proper spillway pipe, so as not to damage the public highway downstream.

The undersigned would be pleased to meet with you, if you so request, to discuss this problem.

A report on this condition has been forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners and no doubt you will soon receive a communication from the Board in connection with your dam. I am writing to you at this time because I believe the situation needs immediate attention and the water level of the pond should be lowered without delay.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

April 5, 1962

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the communication received by your Board from Fred E. Holcomb of Bondsville, Mass., relative to the flooding of property owned by Mr. Holcomb, due to the fact that water in storage in a pond owned by his neighbor, a Mr. Duda, is at an exceptionally high level, as the result of changes made to the dam owned by Mr. Duda.

The undersigned inspected the dam and the pond on Wednesday afternoon, April 4, 1962, and reports as follows:

The dam and pond in question is the former Otis Company Reservoir dam and once was owned by the Boston Duck Company. This dam and pond eventually became the property of a Mr. Midura and about 10 years or so ago, the dam and pond were acquired by a Mr. Duda in Bondsville.

The dam and pond are located on a small tributary of the Swift River at a point just upstream of Bondsville Center. The dam is an earthen embankment, slightly more than 400 ft. in length and approximately 10 ft. in height at the point of the pond's greatest depth. The top width of the dam is approximately 10 ft. The dam forms a reservoir containing an estimated 2 million gallons of water. The structure was built for the purpose of impounding a water supply and for the purpose of fire protection at the downstream manufacturing plant. Thru the dam is located an overflow pipe, 12-inches in diameter.

Problems have occurred in the past regarding high water at this pond and reports in connection therewith were submitted to your Honorable

Board on April 22, 1947 and again on May 27, 1953.

When the dam was last inspected in 1961, it was found that the pond was empty and no water had been stored for some time. On Wednesday, April 4, 1962, it was found that the dam had been reactivated and water was stored to an exceptionally high elevation.

The normal spillway has been a vertical pipe connected to the pipe thru the embankment. Whenever the flow of water in the pond reached or exceeded the lip of the vertical pipe opening, pond water passed down thru the pipe and under the dam embankment. The top of a stone masonry structure at the spillway was normally above water level and in the past a plank cover rested on the masonry. As of now, the water level is so high that the entire masonry structure is under water. There is no evidence of the vertical pipe being in place and from the small trickle of water that emerges from the end of this pipeline at the toe of the dam, it would appear as if the upstream end of the spillway pipe has been plugged.

To the right of the main spillway someone has dug a narrow trench thru the earth embankment and water is now allowed to pass across the earth embankment in this trench. Because the embankment is fairly well compacted and because of heavy root structure, the flowing water has not eaten thru the embankment to any great depth. However, it can be noticed at the downstream end of this channel, embankment material is being washed away and the embankment is being cut deeper and deeper with each passing day. Eventually, a breach will occur thru the dam and the pond will be released.

There is further evidence of the fact that the water level is higher than normal and proper, in that most of the trees growing from the upstream edge of the embankment are now inundated at the base and root level. These trees, if allowed to remain under the level of the pond, will die and become a danger to the structure.

It is recommended that the Owner of the dam be directed to immediately lower the level of the pond in a safe and proper manner and to restore the spillway facilities to the condition that existed prior to the unauthorized changes that have been made. It is further recommended that the Owner be directed to provide a proper swale spillway at the right end of the dam to allow for the automatic release of any surplus water and prevent the recurrence of the conditions as now noted.

I have sent a letter directly to Mr. Duda in order that he may be immediately warned of the dangerous condition at his dam and in order that he may take corrective action within the next day or two. I tried to reach Mr. Duda in person while at the site, during the inspection on Wednesday, April 4. However, no one was at home and I could find no one around the property adjacent to the house and pond. I will continue to try and reach Mr. Duda by telephone. In any event, the letter mailed directly to Mr. Duda will give him written notice of the fact that conditions at the dam are not proper and he will thus have ample and immediate notice that corrective action should be taken. A copy of my letter to Mr. Duda is enclosed for your files.

Very truly yours

GHM/cmb
enc.

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

April 5, 1962

Mr. Joseph S. Duda
205 Main Street
Bondsville, Mass.

Dear Mr. Duda:

On Wednesday, April 4, 1962, the undersigned inspected the dam located on your property in Bondsville and formerly the property of Midura, as well as the Boston Duck Company. The inspection was made at the direction of the County Commissioners of Hampden County, in my capacity as County Hydraulic Engineer.

It was noted that the small pond to the rear of your house was full to above the level of the normal spillway elevation and that certain conditions now exist that are dangerous to the safety of the dam.

It was noted that the main spillway pipe is not discharging its full capacity. A small trickle of water emerges from the downstream end, while the upstream end is inundated and the water level of the pond completely submerges the stone masonry of the intake structure well. In the past, this masonry has always been above water level and at times a plank cover rested on the masonry. It too was above water level. Such a cover would not be above water level based on conditions noted on April 4.

Also, it was noted that a channel has been cut across the embankment of the dam and water is being released in this channel. The water is cutting the channel deeper and deeper. Eventually, the channel could become a breach and the dam could fail.

Trees growing from the upstream face of the earth embankment are under water and, if the condition continues, these trees undoubtedly will die. This is further evidence that the water level in the pond is above proper elevation.

In order to protect the dam from failure and prevent possible damage

to the public highway downstream, the water level in the pond should be lowered immediately and kept lowered until such time as the spillway facility is restored to its proper condition. Consideration should also be given to the construction of a swale-type spillway across the embankment of the dam at the extreme right end. This could act as an emergency spillway, should the water rise a few inches above level at which it must be normally maintained.

In lowering the water level in the pond, be certain that it is released slowly thru the proper spillway pipe, so as not to damage the public highway downstream.

The undersigned would be pleased to meet with you, if you so request, to discuss this problem.

A report on this condition has been forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners and no doubt you will soon receive a communication from the Board in connection with your dam. I am writing to you at this time because I believe the situation needs immediate attention and the water level of the pond should be lowered without delay.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

April 10, 1962

Mr. Joseph S. Duda
205 Main Street
Bondsville, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, pertaining to the safety and inspection of dams, the County Commissioners have caused an inspection of your dam, located on your property in Bondsville, to be made by the County Hydraulic Engineer for the purpose of determining if the dam is safe in its existing condition and whether or not changes have been made at this structure without authorization under the Law.

The County Hydraulic Engineer made his inspection of your dam on Wednesday, April 4, 1962. At that time, he found no one at home at the house nor on the property immediately adjacent to your house and the dam. The report submitted to our Board by the County Hydraulic Engineer is as follows:

> "The dam and pond in question is the former Otis Company Reservoir dam and once was owned by the Boston Duck Company. This dam and pond eventually became the property of a Mr. Midura and about 10 years or so ago, the dam and pond were acquired by a Mr. Duda in Bondsville.
>
> The dam and pond are located on a small tributary of the Swift River at a point just upstream of Bondsville Center. The dam is an earthen embankment, slightly more than 400 ft. in length and approximately 10 ft. in height at the point of the pond's greatest depth. The top width of the dam is approximately 10 ft. The dam forms a reservoir containing an estimated 2 million gallons of water. The structure was built for the purpose of impounding a water supply and for the purpose of fire protection at the downstream manufacturing plant. Thru the dam is located an overflow pipe, 12-inches in diameter.

Problems have occurred in the past regarding high water at this pond and reports in connection therewith were submitted to your Honorable Board on April 22, 1947 and again on May 27, 1953.

When the dam was last inspected in 1961, it was found that the pond was empty and no water had been stored for some time. On Wednesday, April 4, 1962, it was found that the dam had been reactivated and water was stored to an exceptionally high elevation.

The normal spillway has been a vertical pipe connected to the pipe thru the embankment. Whenever the flow of water in the pond reached or exceeded the lip of the vertical pipe opening, pond water passed down thru the pipe and under the dam embankment. The top of a stone masonry structure at the spillway was normally above water level and in the past a plank cover rested on the masonry. As of now, the water level is so high that the entire masonry structure is under water. There is no evidence of the vertical pipe being in place and from the small trickle of water that emerges from the end of this pipeline at the toe of the dam, it would appear as if the upstream end of the spillway pipe has been plugged.

To the right of the main spillway someone has dug a narrow trench thru the earth embankment and water is now allowed to pass across the earth embankment in this trench. Because the embankment is fairly well compacted and because of heavy root structure, the flowing water has not eaten thru the embankment to any great depth. However, it can be noticed at the downstream end of this channel, embankment material is being washed away and the embankment is being cut deeper and deeper with each passing day. Eventually, a breach will occur thru the dam and the pond will be released.

There is further evidence of the fact that the water level is higher than normal and proper, in that most of the trees growing from the upstream edge of the embankment are now inundated at the base and root level. These trees, if allowed to remain under the level of the pond, will die and become a danger to the structure.

It is recommended that the Owner of the dam be directed to immediately lower the level of the pond in a safe and proper manner and to restore the spillway facilities to the condition that existed prior to the unauthorized changes that have been made. It is further recommended that the Owner be directed to provide a proper swale spillway at the right end of the dam to allow for the automatic release of any surplus water and prevent the recurrence of the conditions as now noted."

Our Board concurs in the recommendations of the County Hydraulic Engineer and directs that you immediately restore conditions at your dam to those existing in the past, whereby the main spillway pipe can and will function freely, water level will be maintained at the proper elevation and the channel cut across the embankment will be sealed and closed in a proper manner. This channel should be closed by packing it very tightly with a mixture of clay and sand. It is also directed that until such time as the spillway facilities at this dam are restored and the embankment repaired, that no water be impounded at the dam and that the pond be kept empty.

When you have restored the spillway facilities and repaired the channel thru the embankment, please notify this Board in writing. The County Hydraulic Engineer will be directed to make an inspection of your dam at that time and to prepare a report for filing in the County Court House regarding conditions at your dam.

Since your dam comes under County jurisdiction, you should not make any changes in the dam without first obtaining approval from the County. Changes of a major nature that would affect pond level or alter the spillway capacity, require that detailed plans and specifications be filed with the County. If you have any question in connection with the operation and maintenance of your dam, kindly call or write this Board at the County Court House in Springfield or the County Hydraulic Engineer, George H. McDonnell, at Bowers & Pequot Streets, Holyoke, Mass., telephone JE 3-3991.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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April 10, 1962

Mr. Joseph S. Duda
205 Main Street
Bondsville, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, pertaining to the safety and inspection of dams, the County Commissioners have caused an inspection of your dam, located on your property in Bondsville, to be made by the County Hydraulic Engineer for the purpose of determining if the dam is safe in its existing condition and whether or not changes have been made at this structure without authorization under the Law.

The County Hydraulic Engineer made his inspection of your dam on Wednesday, April 4, 1962. At that time, he found no one at home at the house nor on the property immediately adjacent to your house and the dam. The report submitted to our Board by the County Hydraulic Engineer is as follows:

> "The dam and pond in question is the former Otis Company Reservoir dam and once was owned by the Boston Duck Company. This dam and pond eventually became the property of a Mr. Midura and about 10 years or so ago, the dam and pond were acquired by a Mr. Duda in Bondsville.
>
> The dam and pond are located on a small tributary of the Swift River at a point just upstream of Bondsville Center. The dam is an earthen embankment, slightly more than 400 ft. in length and approximately 10 ft. in height at the point of the pond's greatest depth. The top width of the dam is approximately 10 ft. The dam forms a reservoir containing an estimated 2 million gallons of water. The structure was built for the purpose of impounding a water supply and for the purpose of fire protection at the downstream manufacturing plant. Thru the dam is located an overflow pipe, 12-inches in diameter.

Problems have occurred in the past regarding high water at this pond and reports in connection therewith were submitted to your Honorable Board on April 22, 1947 and again on May 27, 1953.

When the dam was last inspected in 1961, it was found that the pond was empty and no water had been stored for some time. On Wednesday, April 4, 1962, it was found that the dam had been reactivated and water was stored to an exceptionally high elevation.

The normal spillway has been a vertical pipe connected to the pipe thru the embankment. Whenever the flow of water in the pond reached or exceeded the lip of the vertical pipe opening, pond water passed down thru the pipe and under the dam embankment. The top of a stone masonry structure at the spillway was normally above water level and in the past a plank cover rested on the masonry. As of now, the water level is so high that the entire masonry structure is under water. There is no evidence of the vertical pipe being in place and from the small trickle of water that emerges from the end of this pipeline at the toe of the dam, it would appear as if the upstream end of the spillway pipe has been plugged.

To the right of the main spillway someone has dug a narrow trench thru the earth embankment and water is now allowed to pass across the earth embankment in this trench. Because the embankment is fairly well compacted and because of heavy root structure, the flowing water has not eaten thru the embankment to any great depth. However, it can be noticed at the downstream end of this channel, embankment material is being washed away and the embankment is being cut deeper and deeper with each passing day. Eventually, a breach will occur thru the dam and the pond will be released.

There is further evidence of the fact that the water level is higher than normal and proper, in that most of the trees growing from the upstream edge of the embankment are now inundated at the base and root level. These trees, if allowed to remain under the level of the pond, will die and become a danger to the structure.

It is recommended that the Owner of the dam be directed to immediately lower the level of the pond in a safe and proper manner and to restore the spillway facilities to the condition that existed prior to the unauthorized changes that have been made. It is further recommended that the Owner be directed to provide a proper swale spillway at the right end of the dam to allow for the automatic release of any surplus water and prevent the recurrence of the conditions as now noted."

Our Board concurs in the recommendations of the County Hydraulic Engineer and directs that you immediately restore conditions at your dam to those existing in the past, whereby the main spillway pipe can and will function freely, water level will be maintained at the proper elevation and the channel cut across the embankment will be sealed and closed in a proper manner. This channel should be closed by packing it very tightly with a mixture of clay and sand. It is also directed that until such time as the spillway facilities at this dam are restored and the embankment repaired, that no water be impounded at the dam and that the pond be kept empty.

When you have restored the spillway facilities and repaired the channel thru the embankment, please notify this Board in writing. The County Hydraulic Engineer will be directed to make an inspection of your dam at that time and to prepare a report for filing in the County Court House regarding conditions at your dam.

Since your dam comes under County jurisdiction, you should not make any changes in the dam without first obtaining approval from the County. Changes of a major nature that would affect pond level or alter the spillway capacity, require that detailed plans and specifications be filed with the County. If you have any question in connection with the operation and maintenance of your dam, kindly call or write this Board at the County Court House in Springfield or the County Hydraulic Engineer, George H. McDonnell, at Bowers & Pequot Streets, Holyoke, Mass., telephone JE 3-3991.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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_____

Holcomb, F E



1947 Palmer

Also see: Duda Dam fka Otis Company Reservoir Dam.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Otis Company Reservoir Dam
Dam	Duda Dam
Name	Holbrook, F E
Name	Duda, Joseph S.
Water	Swift River

PALMER
D15011

HOLCOMB, F E

SEE: DUDA DAM FKA OTIS COMPANY RESERVOIR DAM
D15010

NO IMAGE ON FILE FOR THIS RECORD

(INFORMATION EXISTS ONLY ON A FILE CARD FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FORMER HAMPDEN COUNTY ENGINEER.)

Lilly Pond Dam aka Cheney Dam



1952 Palmer

Location is Lilly Pond between High Street and Main Street in the Bondville area of town.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Lilly Pond Dam
Dam	Cheney Dam
Name	Cheney, G B
Streets	High Street
Streets	Main Street
Water	Lilly Pond

April 21, 1952

Mr. George H. McDonnell,
County Hydraulic Engineer,
189 High Street,
Holyoke, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

Many thanks for your letter of April 4 relative to conditions at Lilly Pond.

If there is further information needed on this matter I will get in touch with you.

Very truly yours,

George F. Kenney Jr.
Chairman

CC to W. J. Stapleton

Palmer

TIGHE & BOND

April 4, 1952

COPY

Mr. George B. Cheney
High Street
Three Rivers
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with our recent telephone conversation I investigated the conditions at Lilly Pond on Thursday April 3, 1952.

Lilly Pond is located between High St. and Main St. in the Bondsville area of Town. Records show that it has, " a surface area of about three or four acres and a drainage area of not more than one-tenth of a square mile" and that it has been classed as a natural pond. Investigation reveals that on old as well as new geological maps, the body of water is shown.

Main Street passes to the west of the pond and then to the west of the paved street for about 100 feet or more, the level of the land in all directions is generally as high or higher than the pond.

A pipeline overflow is located under the roadway and also extends under property of an adjacent garage. This pipeline is a twenty-four inch corrugated iron pipe at the pond and emerges some 150 feet to the west in a small ditch north-westerly of the garage as what appears to be a vitrified clay pipe. The ditch is partly blocked with debris, earth, stones and vegetation so that the water level in the ditch is approximately at the level of the top of the discharge end of the pipe.

At the pond end of the discharge pipe the water depth in the twenty-four inch pipe is only six inches. Thus if the pond was at the lowest level possible, based on the existing pipeline, the water level of Lilly Pond would drop only six inches.

The brook flowing into Lilly Pond from the easterly side has a considerable flow of water at present. This same quantity of water, with little variation, must go through the corrugated iron outlet pipe. It would appear to the undersigned that the inflow from the brook is about equal to the six

COPY

inches of flow passing from the pond through the twenty-four inch discharge pipe. Thus cleaning of the ditch and lowering of the water level at the discharge end of the pipeline will not drop the level of water in Lilly Pond. Unless there is some other outlet, now under water on the pond side and lost in the vegetation on the discharge end, it would seem that the water is only slightly above normal level and that this variation is in keeping with the high ground water conditions being generally experienced throughout this entire area this spring.

No doubt the level of Lilly Pond has been much lower than six inches below the present level in the past, however, this condition has probably been brought about by seepage and evaporation or possibly some hidden drain and definitely not by the twenty-four inch corrugated iron pipeline.

Since there is no flashboard or variable crest to the discharge structure of the pond, and since from all appearances no change has been made in the level of the inlet end of the discharge pipeline, it would seem that present high water conditions in Lilly Pond are a result of natural conditions, not necessarily normal, particularly high ground water.

Very truly yours,
Tighe & Bond

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

Labossiere Dam aka Mount Dumpling Brook Dam



1933 Palmer

Located on Mount Dumpling Brook

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Mount Dumpling Brook Dam
Dam	Labossiere Dam
Name	Labossiere, Hermas C
Water	Mount Dumpling Brook

May 10, 1933

Mr. Hermas C. Labossiere,
P. O. Box 67,
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 45 of Chapter 253 of the General Laws as amended by Chapter 334 of the Acts of 1923 and as further amended by Chapter 176 of the Acts of 1924 relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are notified that your dam, located on Mount Dumpling Brook, so called, in the Town of Palmer, has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following condition noted and recommendation made by him;

"The downstream end of the east wall of the concrete spillway and also the downstream end of the flooring of the spillway are broken down and should be repaired.

At the present time the water, after it crosses the spillway, turns and flows along the downstream toe of the dam. This overflow water should be diverted away from the toe of the dam by providing a swale or water course leading straight from the spillway to a point well below and away from the toe of the dam."

Now, therefore, in accordance with Section 46 of said Chapter 253, it is ordered that the above recommendation be complied with in a reasonable length of time.

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman.

COPY

May 27, 1933

Mr. Hermes C. Lebossiere,
P. O. Box 67,
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 23rd inst. to the Hampden County Commissioners was turned over to me, the engineer who inspected the dam.

I may say that I shall be glad to meet you on Wednesday next May 31st at 4 P. M. and explain to you the repairs to be made.

In case the time set is not convenient for you let me know by mail or telephone when it will be convenient for you to meet me. My telephone number is Holyoke 5525.

Yours very truly,

James I. Tighe,

Palmer, Mass.
May 23, 1933.

Hampden County Commissioners,
Springfield, Mass.

Dear Sirs:

I appreciate your letter of May 10th calling my attention to the condition of my dam located on Mount Dumpling Brook in the Town of Palmer. I note in the last paragraph of your letter that any further information which I desire will be furnished by your office on request. Therefore, I assure you that I will appreciate this information.

First, how much time will you allow me to fix this dam? I am very cramped for money at the present time because of the scarcity of ice and the necessity of going outside to buy artificial ice. Now, I have let the water down two feet since receiving your letter, so there appears to be no danger whatever for the time being.

I am very anxious to cooperate one hundred per cent with whatever plan you suggest, and I would greatly appreciate your advice on the cheapest method to remedy the defect, because I am just barely weathering the depression.

Very truly yours,

Hermas C Labossiere

Hermas C. Labossiere
Box 67
Palmer, Mass.

August 27, 1941

Mr. Hermas C. Labossiere

Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby notified that your dam on Mt. Dumpling Brook in Palmer has been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

"This dam is in fair condition but its spillway channel contains a considerable accumulation of debris, which should be removed."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman

_____

_____

Hinkson Paper Company Dams



1961 Palmer

Also see: Dam Report Section.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Hinkson Paper Company Dams
Name	Hinkson Paper Company

August 14, 1961 -- Copy sent to Mr. McDonnell

Hinkson Paper Company
Palmer, Mass.

August 4, 1961

Mr. Ralph Walsh,
Office of the County Comm.
97 Elm St.
Springfield, Mass.

Dear Mr. Walsh;

With reference to your letter of August 2nd, wish to advise that dams are not abandoned, but ponds kept dry because of children from surrounding new housing development playing around then, even though land is posted.

Would like very much to discuss some questions with you and wonder if it would be convenient for you if I stopped at your office, on the way our to work?

Cordially yours,

HINKSON PAPER COMPANY

JRH/h

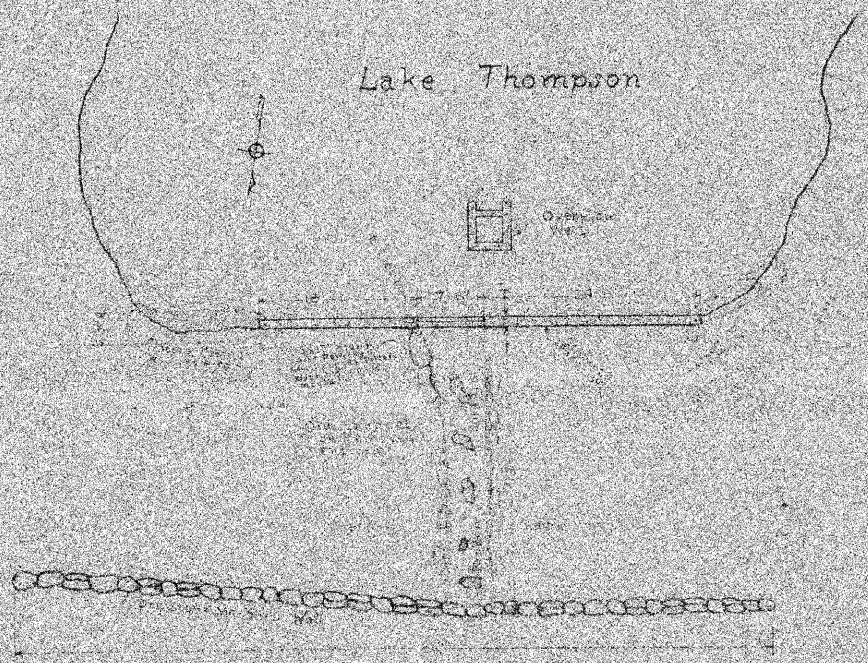
John W Boyle Realty Company Dam



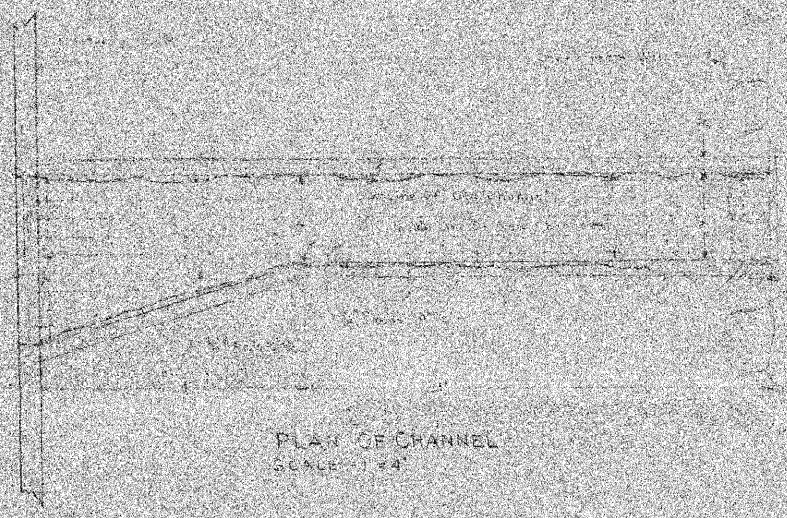
1926 Palmer

Dam located across the outlet of Thompson Lake.

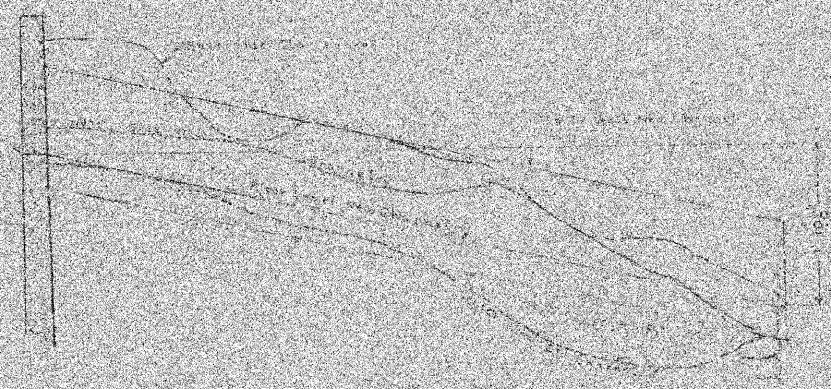
City/Town	Palmer
Dam	John W Boyle Realty Company Dam
Name	John W Boyle Realty Company
Water	Thompson Lake



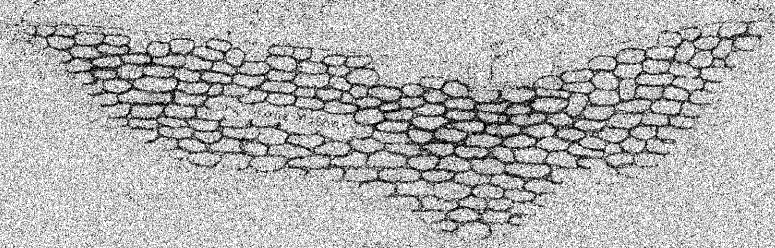
PLAN OF DAM



PLAN OF CHANNEL
SCALE 1"=4'

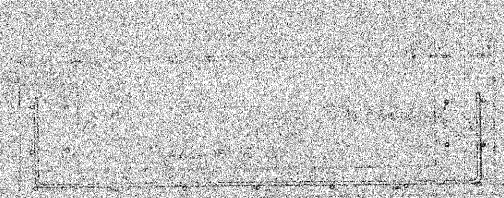


PROFILE OF CHANNEL
SCALE 1"=4' HOR & 1"=1' VERT.

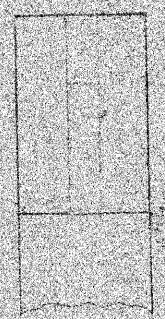


ELEVATION OF WALL
DOWNSTREAM SIDE
SCALE 1"=4' HOR & 1" VERT

NOTE: WORK TO BE DONE AS SHOWN THUS



SECTION OF NEW CHANNEL
SCALE 1"=1'



DETAIL AT CREST OF SPILLWAY
SCALE 1"=1'

PLAN SHOWING
PROPOSED SPILLWAY CHANNEL ETC.
AND REPAIRS ON
LAKE THOMPSON DAM PALMER MASS.
JULY 1935.
JAMES L. TIGHE ENGINEER

John M. Boyle Realty Company,
318 Main St.
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

I have an official report on the dam located across the outlet of Thompson Lake or called in the Town of Palmer, Etc.

"The dam, in the main, is in fair condition although it requires some repairs, and it is recommended that the top of the embankment be raised higher than the top of the concrete facing on spillway wall and that the sides of the walls be extended five or six feet and faced with stone. It is also recommended that the downstream dry masonry wall be replaced, as it seems that some of the stones are out of place, especially around the waste drain through the dam, and that the brush and debris on and around the structure be removed."

February 24, 1926

John W. Boyle Realty Company,
318 Main St.,
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 45 of Chapter 253 of the General Laws as amended by Chapter 334 of the Acts of 1923 and as further amended by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 1924 relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are notified that your dam, located across the outlet of Thompson Lake so called in the Town of Palmer, has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following recommendations made by him;

"The dam, in the main, is in fair condition, although it requires some repairs, and it is recommended that the top of the embankment be raised higher than the top of the concrete facing wall and that the sides of the swale or spillway be extended five or six feet and paved with stone. It is also recommended that the downstream dry masonry wall be repaired, as it seems that some of the stones are out of place, especially around the waste drain through the dam, and that the brush and debris on and around the structure be removed."

Now, therefore, in accordance with Section 46 of said Chapter 253, it is ordered that the above recommendations be complied with in a reasonable time.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman

_____

_____

TELEPHONE { RIVER 3880
WALNUT 414

BOYLE REALTY COMPANY

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS
BUILDING LOT SPECIALISTS

318 MAIN STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
REALTORS

REFERENCES
ANY SPRINGFIELD BANK

February 25,1926.

County Commissioners,
City Hall,
City.

Gentlemen:-

In reply to your letter of the 24th., regarding dam at Lake Thompson,Palmer.

We will carry out the recommendations of your engineer just as soon as the frost is out of the ground so that the work can be performed.

Yours very truly,
Boyle Realty Company.

JVB/H.

Thompson Lake Dam



1933 Palmer

Dam and spillway located at Thompson Lake and Thompson Lake Pond. See also: County Roads Plan #20 (1956) "Raise Lower Reservoir Dam".

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Thompson Lake Dam
Name	Thompson Lake Civic Association, Inc
Water	Thompson Pond
Water	Thompson Lake

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Conservation
Division of Fisheries and Game

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ May 12, 1933
Palmer State Fish Hatchery,
Palmer, Mass.

Maintenance of our inland wild life, including song and insectivorous birds, is financed by appropriations based on revenues from sporting licenses. Buy one.

Hampden County Commissioners,
Hampden County Court House,
37 Elm St.,
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

I had occasion last Saturday to go to Thompson's Lake, so-called, (this lake is located about 1½ miles above us) to investigate why there was a surplus of water coming down the brook from this lake. In looking over the dam at this lake I got the impression that it should be repaired because if anything should happen to this dam it would do considerable flood damage and would probably flood us out as all the water would come down thru our fish propagation system.

This lake is located off from Palmer Center about a mile and is an artifical lake of more than 30 acres.

I do not know whether the County Engineer has ever inspected this dam but it is my impression that all dams creating artifical bodies of waters must bear the approval of the County Engineerwho acts for the County Commissioners in such matters.

It is my opinion that this dam should be inspected and I would urge that such a step be taken at an early date as it something not only for the safety of the property owners down from this lake but for the safety of our hatchery.

Yours very truly,

William F. Monroe, Supt.

May 24, 1933

William F. Monroe, Supt.,
Palmer State Fish Hatchery,
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter of the 12th inst. relative to the Thompson Lake dam in Palmer we beg to advise that this structure was, as directed by the County, repaired some years ago.

On Oct. 26th last the dam was inspected by our engineer who reported it to be in fair condition. The concrete lining of the overflow channel or swale leading from the spillway, however, needs some repairs which the owner has been directed to make within a reasonable length of time.

The dam is eighty-two feet in length and eleven feet in hight. Its width on top is thirty-four feet, which for its hight shows a heavy section.

On investigation it appears that the surplus water coming down the brook from the lake, to which your letter refers, was caused by the removal of a flashboard on the spillway.

In conclusion, we may state that this Thompson Lake dam, as well as every other dam in the County, is inspected according to law once in every two years. In addition to this periodic inspection those dams whose failure might have serious results are practically under constant surveillance.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman.

_____

_____

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Conservation
Division of Fisheries and Game
20 Somerset St. Boston April 30, 1935

Mr. Thomas J. Costello
Chairman, County Commissioners
Springfield, Mass.

Dear Sir:

While at our Palmer Hatchery last week I had occasion to look over the dam and spillway at Thompson's Pond which lies above the hatchery property and feeds our water system at the hatchery.

In looking over the spillway it was apparent that the masonry had cracked and there were possibilities of the water working down into the dam, and it appeared to me that something should be done about it.

Mr. Monroe, the superintendent of the hatchery, stated that he had had some correspondence with your office about this same matter two years ago, and had received word from your office that your engineer had made an inspection of this dam and directed the owner to make the necessary repairs to the spillway. It appeared that nothing had been done about it, and as we are vitally interested in protecting our rights below, we would appreciate it if you would look into this matter and see if something can not be done about it.

Very truly yours,
Arnold E. Howard.

ARNOLD E. HOWARD
FIELD AGENT AND ENGINEER

AEH:GEK

Copy of this letter mailed to Mr. Pigheon 5/2/35

JAMES L. TIGHE

CONSULTING ENGINEER

CALEDONIAN BUILDING, 189 HIGH STREET

HOLYOKE, MASS.

TELEPHONE 5525

MEMBER AM. INST. OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.

MEMBER
AM. SOC. C. E.
INST. C. E. GREAT BRITAIN
ENG. INST. OF CANADA

MEMBER
BOSTON SOC. C. E.
ENG SOC. WEST. MASS.
AM. & N. E. W. W. ASSOC'S

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
ANALYSIS OF WATER

WATER POWER INVESTIGATIONS
AND DEVELOPMENT
DAMS AND POWER INSTALLATIONS
ESTIMATES AND APPRAISALS

May 6, 1935

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County, Court House
Springfield, Mass.

Thomas J. Costello, Chairman:

Dear Sir:

In regard to some repairs needed to be made on the spillway channel of the Thompson Lake dam in the Town of Palmer and about which a notification was sent by the County to the owner of the property Mr. Dino A. Luppi of 84 Saratoga Street, Springfield, Mass., I beg to state that the repairs have not as yet been made.

It appears Mr. Luppi has left Springfield and I have made many inquiries to try to locate him and have called on the assessors in Palmer thinking they would have his present address, but have been unsucessful.

Inasmuch as there are some taxes due on the property and that the Town of Palmer is interested in it, the Chairman of the Selectmen Mr. L. Marhelewicz, with whom I talked the matter over, told me to assure the Board that, since the repairs to be made is a small job, the Town would do the work.

Respectfully submitted

James L. Tighe

Town of Palmer, Massachusetts.

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNSEL.

May 8, 1935.

William C. Giles, Esq.,
Counsel to County Commissioners,
Springfield, Mass.

Dear Mr. Giles:

I have looked up the matter of taxes assessed to Dino Luppi. He appears to be assessed for the dam and abutments at Lake Thompson and about 32 acres 38744 square feet of land. The assessed value is $3400. His taxes are unpaid for 1932, 1933 and 1934. The amount of the taxes for 1932 are $95.20; 1933, $95.20 and 1934, $122.40. He owes this amount together with interest.

From notations on the records in the assessors' office it appears that John V. Boyle conveyed to Dino Luppi by quitclaim deed dated March 28, 1932, recorded with Hampden County Deeds, Book 1496, Page 480, the land within the boundaries of certain named and unnamed streets as shown on Plan of Lake Thompson, dam and abutments, land in the bedded stream, etc. A glance at the deed will show you definitely what was conveyed by Mr. Boyle to Luppi.

I think this bears out the statement I made to you that John V. Boyle is really the man interested in the development of Lake Thompson and arranged with Dino Luppi, whoever he may be, to hold this title for him. I am quite sure if you will take the matter up with Mr. Boyle you will get results.

Yours very truly,

Ernest C. Hobson

Town Counsel.

May 22, 1935

Mr. James L. Tighe,
189 High Street,
Holyoke, Mass.

Dear Mr. Tighe:

We are writing to you in regard to repairs needed to be made on the spillway channel of the Thompson Lake Dam in the Town of Palmer on property owned by Mr. Dino A. Luppi of 84 Saratoga Street, Springfield, Mass.

Please make a report to us in writing whether you consider the structure safe and in good condition, and if not, its condition in detail and the work and changes required for safety and the public good.

We would like to have this report so that we may consider it at our next meeting, on Wednesday, May 29th.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Counsel.

WCG/N

MEMBER
AM. SOC. C. E.
INST. C. E. GREAT BRITAIN
ENG. INST. OF CANADA

JAMES L. TIGHE

CONSULTING ENGINEER
CALEDONIAN BUILDING, 189 HIGH STREET
HOLYOKE, MASS.
TELEPHONE 5525
MEMBER AM. INST. OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.

MEMBER
BOSTON SOC. C. E.
ENG. SOC. WEST. MASS.
AM. & N. E. W. W. ASSOC'S

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
ANALYSIS OF WATER

WATER POWER INVESTIGATIONS
AND DEVELOPMENT
DAMS AND POWER INSTALLATIONS
ESTIMATES AND APPRAISALS

May 28, 1935

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County, Court House
Springfield, Mass.

Thomas J. Costello, Chairman:

Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter of the 22nd inst. I beg to state that notwithstanding repairs are needed on the overflow or spillway channel of the Thompson Lake Dam in Palmer, I do not consider the dam as a whole unsafe at present or in any danger of collapsing.

The overflow or spillway however, which is a concrete swale built across the top of the dam, is disintegrating and has become broken up in places. Repairs should be made on this part of the structure as leakage through the swale will in time affect the stability of the structure. There are other minor repairs that should be made, such as touching up the earth-fill, resetting of displaced stone etc.

The accompanying sketch shows the type and size of the dam and also the disintegrated parts in the spillway channel or swale where the repairs are needed.

In making the repairs it would be advisable to rebuild the whole of the swale instead of patching the disintegrated parts.

Inasmuch as the flashboard on the spillway crest is under no responsible control and is tampered with from time to time, I would recommend that later in the season, when the lake drops to the crest of the spillway, the flashboard be removed permanently.

Respectfully submitted

James L. Tighe

May 31, 1935

Mr. Arnold E. Howard,
Field Agent and Engineer,
Department of Conservation,
Division of Fisheries and Game,
20 Somerset Street, Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of April 30th relative to the dam and spillway at Thompson's Pond which lies above your hatchery at Palmer, we wish to say that Mr. James L. Tighe, Engineer for the County, has made an examination of the dam and spillway and will furnish the County Commissioners with specifications covering the work necessary to be done. We expect that the necessary repairs will be completed within a reasonable time.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman.

G/N

Town of Palmer, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN
HOLBROOK BUILDING

July 16th. 1935.

County Commissioners,

Court House,

Springfield, Massachusetts.

Dear Sirs:-

The Board of Selectmen of this town held a special meeting at 3 P. M. last Sunday at Lake Thompson with the cottage owners in regard to the Lake Thompson dam and it was decided that the town would furnish the gravel, stone and equipment and the cottage owners would furnish the cement and do the work under the supervision of the Hampden County Commissioners. The work is to be started next Saturday, July 20th. 1935.

Very truly,

Harriette Lawrence Sect.

For Board of Selectmen.

JAMES L. TIGHE

CONSULTING ENGINEER

CALEDONIAN BUILDING, 189 HIGH STREET

HOLYOKE, MASS.

TELEPHONE 5525

MEMBER AM. INST. OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.

MEMBER
AM. SOC. C. E.
INST. C. E. GREAT BRITAIN
ENG. INST. OF CANADA

MEMBER
BOSTON SOC. C. E.
ENG SOC. WEST. MASS.
AM. & N. E. W. W. ASSOC'S

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
ANALYSIS OF WATER

WATER POWER INVESTIGATIONS
AND DEVELOPMENT
DAMS AND POWER INSTALLATIONS
ESTIMATES AND APPRAISALS

July 30, 1935

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County, Court House,
Springfield, Mass.

Thomas J. Costello, Chairman:

Dear Sir:

I beg to state that the Thompson Lake dam in the town of Palmer has been repaired including the rebuilding of the spillway with re-enforced concrete. The work has been done in accordance with the plans and specifications on file with the county and under the direct supervision of your engineer.

Respectfully submitted,

James L. Tighe

Town of Palmer, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN
HOLBROOK BUILDING

August 2nd. 1935.

County Commissioners,

Court House,

Springfield, Mass.

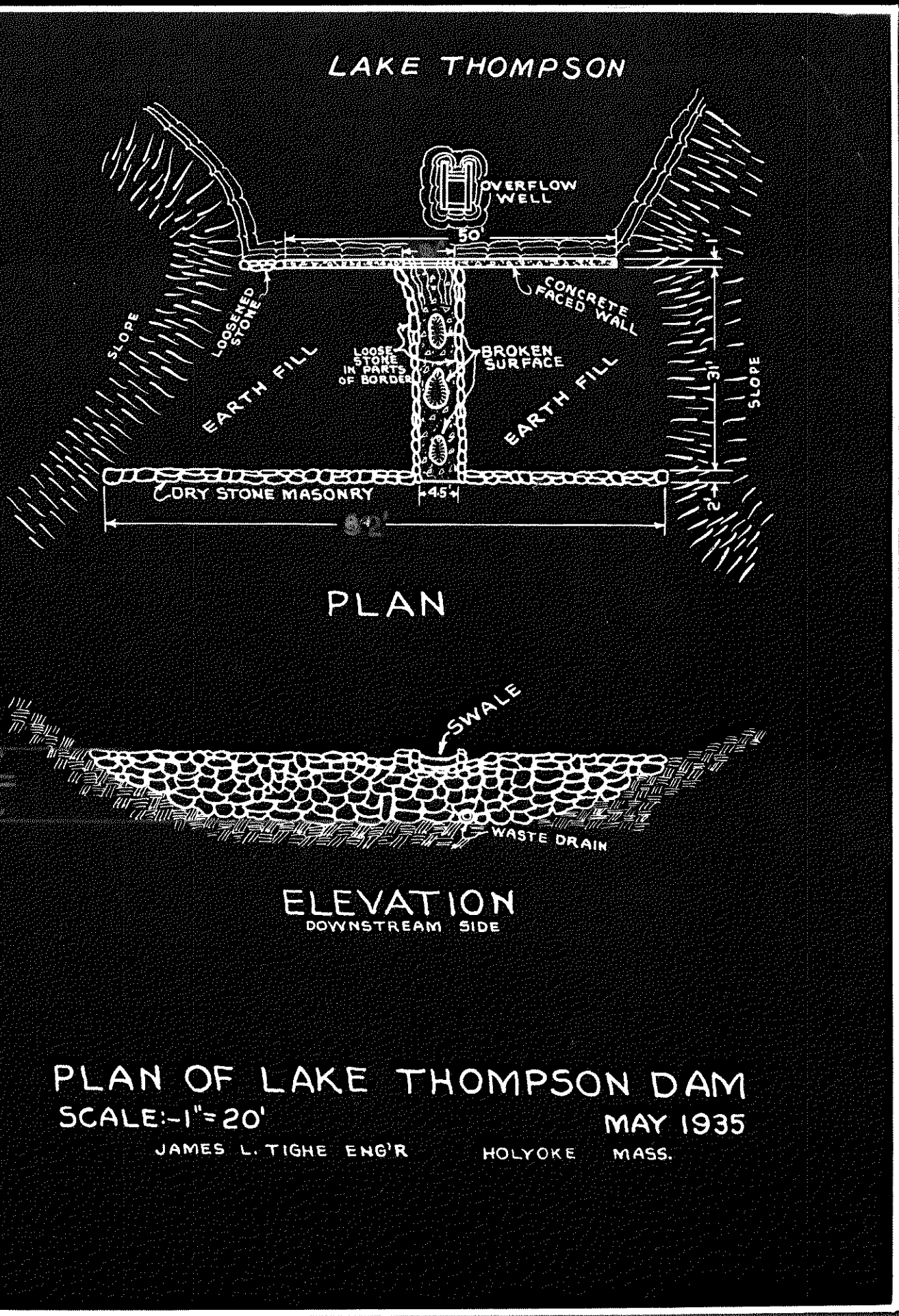
Gentlemen:-

As per your request the Board of Selectmen wish me to inform you that the work of repairing the dam at Lake Thompson under the supervision of one of your Engineers is completed,

Very truly,

Jannette Lane Sect.

For Board of Selectmen.


LAKE THOMPSON
OVERFLOW WELL
50'
CONCRETE FACED WALL
LOOSENED STONE
SLOPE
EARTH FILL
LOOSE STONE IN PARTS OF BORDER
BROKEN SURFACE
EARTH FILL
31'
SLOPE
DRY STONE MASONRY
4.5'
82'
PLAN
SWALE
WASTE DRAIN
ELEVATION
DOWNSTREAM SIDE
PLAN OF LAKE THOMPSON DAM
SCALE:-1"=20'
MAY 1935
JAMES L. TIGHE ENG'R
HOLYOKE MASS.

HAMPDEN COUNTY
MASSACHUSETTS.

SPECIFICATIONS
FOR REPAIRS
ON
THOMPSON LAKE DAM
IN
PALMER, MASS.
JULY, 1935

INFORMATION TO BIDDERS

****

Sealed bids or proposals addressed to the Board of County Commissioners of Hampden County, Court House, Springfield, Mass. and endorsed "Proposal for repairs on Thompson Lake dam" will be received at the office of the Board until 11 o'clock A. M. Wednesday _____ _____ 1935 when at that time and place the bids will be opened and read.

Plans and specifications for the work may be obtained at the office of the Board.

All bids must be made on the proposal form provided by the Board, must give the price in letters and figures and be signed by the bidder with his business address.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check in the sum of $25.00 drawn upon a national bank or trust company in Massachusetts, payable to "Hampden County, Mass.", such check to be returned to the bidder unless forfeited under the conditions stipulated in the form of proposal.

All bids will be compared on the basis of the work to be done namely the building of a reinforced concrete spillway channel over the top of the Thompson Lake earthen dam in Palmer, Mass. including excavation therefor, paving etc.

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept any bid should the Board deem it for the best interests of Hampden County so to do.

_____

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,

_____

HAMPDEN COUNTY

_____

PROPOSAL TO THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HAMPDEN COUNTY
MASSACHUSETTS FOR THE BUILDING OF A
REINFORCED CONCRETE SPILLWAY CHANNEL FOR
AND REPAIRS ON THOMPSON LAKE DAM
PALMER, MASS.

****

The undersigned as bidder declares that he has examined on the field the proposed work to be done and the plans and specifications thereof on file in the office of the Board and has taken into consideration all the difficulties to be met with in the doing of the work, such as high water in the lake etc. and he proposes and agrees that he will contract with the Board of County Commissioners of Hampden County, Mass. to provide all the labor, materials, tools, machinery and apparatus and do all the work specified in the contract in the manner and time therein prescribed and in accordance with the requirements of the engineer as therein set forth and that he will take in full payment therefor the following lump sum of

_____ $_____

If this proposal shall be accepted by the Board of County Commissioners, and the undersigned shall fail to contract as aforesaid within seven (7) days of the date of the mailing of the notice to him from the Board that the contract is ready for signature, then he shall be considered to have abandoned the contract and the certified check for twenty-five dollars ($25.00) accompanying this proposal shall become the property of Hampden County. Otherwise the accompanying check shall be returned to the undersigned.

Dated this _____ day of _____ in the year 1935.

_____

SIGNATURE OF BIDDER _____

AND BUSINESS ADDRESS _____

HAMPDEN COUNTY
MASSACHUSETTS.

CONTRACT FOR THE LAYING OF A REINFORCED CONCRETE SPILLWAY CHANNEL FOR AND REPAIRS ON THOMPSON LAKE EARTHEN DAM IN PALMER, MASS.

****

The County of Hampden Massachusetts by its Board of County Commissioners, party of the first part, and

_____

hereinafter designated the contractor, party of the second part, agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1. The contractor shall do all the work and furnish all the labor and materials, tools and machinery necessary for the building of a reinforced concrete spillway channel over the top of Thompson Lake earthen dam including excavation for same and back filling, removal of the old spillway channel, laying of stone pavement at ends of the upstream concrete face wall of dam and relaying the displaced stones and levelling up of the downstream dry stone masonry wall of the dam etc. in the manner and under the conditions herein specified.

ARTICLE 2. Whereever the word Board is used in this contract it shall mean the Board of County Commissioners of Hampden County, Massachusetts.

Where the word Engineer is used in this contract it shall mean the person holding the position or acting in the capacity of Engineer of the Board.

ARTICLE 3. All the work under this contract shall be done to the satisfaction of the engineer who shall in all cases determine the amount, quality and acceptability of the work which is to be paid for under this contract and shall decide all questions which may arise relative to the fulfillment of this contract on the part of the contractor and his determination shall be final and conclusive. Such

determination and decision, in case any question shall arise, shall be a condition president to the right of the contractor to receive any money under this contract.

SPECIFICATIONS

ARTICLE 4.
Section 1. The work to be done is the removal of the present spillway channel and the building of a new reinforced concrete spillway channel at the Thompson Lake dam, including the necessary excavation, backfilling and grading for same; the laying of stone paving on the upstream slope at the ends of the present facing wall; the resetting of the stones that have fallen out of the downstream dry stone masonry wall, the building up of that wall to grade and the elimination of the flashboard arrangement on the spillway crest.

Section 2. The work shall be done in accordance with the plans on file in the office of the Board, which plans and specifications are hereby made a part of this contract, and any work done not shown on these plans shall not be paid for except the work was ordered in writing by the engineer.

Section 3. The contractor shall furnish all labor and materials, tools and machinery and do everything necessary to complete the work in accordance with the terms of this contract and with the requirement of the engineer thereunder.

Section 4. All work during its progress and on completion must conform to the lines and grades given by the engineer and shall be executed in accordance with the plans and directions given by him, subject to such modifications or additions as shall by him be deemed necessary during the execution of the work.

REMOVAL OF OLD SPILLWAY CHANNEL

Section 5. The present spillway channel, which is built of concrete and stone shall be broken up and removed to a waste bank outside the dam designated by the engineer. In case some of the stones or all of them removed are suitable, they may be used in building up the downstream dry stone masonry wall or in the paving of the upstream slope as hereinafter specified.

EXCAVATION

Section 6. After the old channel is removed, the excavation for the new channel shall be made as shown on plans and to line and grade

given by the engineer. Any fill required to bring the bed of the channel to grade shall be of good binding gravel, approved by the engineer. Such fill shall be puddled with water and thoroughly rolled or tamped in place. Earth material excavated, if suitable, may be set aside and used for backfilling against the walls of the new spillway channel.

BUILDING NEW SPILLWAY CHANNEL

Section 7. As the plan shows the reinforced concrete spillway channel will be 33 feet or thereabouts in length, 21 feet of which will be 4 feet in width on the inside, and the remainder or 12 feet from 4 to 7½ feet in width on the inside, the latter width being that at the crest of the spillway.

The flooring of the channel as shown on plans will be 4 inches in thickness. The walls will be 8 inches in thickness and one foot in height above the level of the flooring.

The reinforcement will consist of 3/8 inch metal rods, with the longitudinal rods 10 inches on centers and the transverse rods 18 inches on centers. The transverse rods shall be bent at right angles to enter the walls in a vertical position as shown on plans and shall reach within 2½ inches of the top of the walls, within 1½ inches of the outside of the walls, and within 1½ inches of the bottom of the floor.

Where splicing or lapping of rods is necessary, the lapping shall not be less than 6 inches in length. All rods shall be carefully set in place and wired together in such fashion that the layout of the rods shall not be disturbed in the least by the pouring of the concrete.

At the joint between the floor of the spillway channel and the crest of the spillway, there shall be left a groove one inch square in section as shown on the plan. This groove shall also extend 3 inches up the side walls of the channel. After the concrete is set, the groove shall be filled with a mastic cement, similar to roofing cement, of a type and brand approved by the engineer.

CONCRETE

Section 8. All concrete used in the spillway channel shall consist of one volume of Portland cement, 2 volumes of sand, and 4 volumes of broken stone or clean coarse gravel.

Measurement of the proportion of concrete ingredients shall be made exactly, and the contractor shall provide a suitable measuring unit or container by which the exact proportions can be obtained.

The cement used shall be made by a manufacturer of established reputation, and the brand shall be approved by the engineer. No cement shall be used which is at all lumpy or partially set or deteriorated by dampness, and any such cement shall be removed at once from the work.

Sand used shall be clean, sharp silica sand, hard and durable, and graded from fine to coarse, all passing through a screen having one quarter inch diameter holes.

Crushed stone shall be a hard durable trap rock of such size as to pass through a ring one and one quarter inches in diameter. In case the stone contains any dust, loam, clay, or other foreign substance, it shall be washed or screened to remove such substances.

Mixing of concrete shall be done by a machine mixer of not less than one-half bag capacity, and the entire spillway channel shall be cast in one piece, in one continuous pouring.

The concrete shall be mixed to the consistency known as wet concrete. All concrete shall be thoroughly spaded and tamped in place. The floor of the channel and the tops of the side walls shall be floated with a float to a smooth, plane surface.

Forms shall be built of clean, tight lumber, well braced. Forms for the exposed faces of the channel walls shall be built of new planed and matched lumber.

All forms shall remain in place until the engineer shall give permission for their removal, but in no case shall they be removed within 72 hours of the time the concrete was poured.

Patching or touching up of concrete surfaces with mortar will not be allowed, as such is not necessary if the work of placing is properly done.

The contractor shall allow no water to cross the spillway of the dam from the time he begins the work of removing the old channel until the forms are removed from the new spillway channel as ordered by the engineer.

The fresh concrete shall be protected from too rapid drying out by covering with canvas, wetting etc., if necessary as directed by the engineer.

There is a gravel bank along the highway within a few hundred feet of the work and in case the gravel in this bank is satisfactory, in the opinion of the engineer, for the concrete, permission may be given to the contractor to use it instead of broken stone. In such case the proportions of cement, sand, and gravel shall be determined by the engineer.

BACKFILLING

Section 9. After the forms have been removed, suitable gravel material shall be backfilled against the outside of the spillway channel walls, deposited in 6 inch layers and thoroughly tamped into place. If the material excavated for the channel is not suitable for this work, gravel puddled in place shall be used instead.

The surface of this backfilling shall be of loam 4 inches in thickness, which shall be rounded off, as shown on the plan, from the top of the channel walls to connect with the top of the dam embankment.

STONE PAVING

Section 10. Stone paving shall be laid, as shown on the plans, on the upstream slope of the dam at both ends of the concrete facing wall. A total of 10 square yards of paving shall be laid. At the easterly end of the wall, the paving shall be 4 feet in width measured on the slope (2 feet above and 2 feet below the level of the spillway crest), and 17 feet in length. At the westerly end of the wall the paving shall be 3 feet in width measured on the slope (1 foot above and 2 feet below the level of the spillway crest), and 9 feet in length.

Stone used shall be field or quarry stone and shall have a depth of at least 6 inches, when laid on edge and not flat. The paving shall be carefully laid on edge by hand, stone after stone, and rammed to a uniform, even surface. The surface of the paving will be flush with the surface of the embankment around it, with the joint between well matched and leveled. After the paving is laid the voids between the stone shall be filled with gravel washed into place with water.

The first or foundation row of paving stones, shall be at least 12 inches in depth and shall be well embedded or countersunk into the embankment.

REPAIRING DOWNSTREAM STONE WALL

Section 11. The work to be done under this section is the resetting of stones which have fallen from the top of the downstream dry stone masonry wall and the building of that wall up to the grades shown on the plans. The stones used in this work shall be field or quarry stones not less than 12 inches in width. They shall be laid flat (on their beds) and shall be set or embedded in cement mortar composed of 1 volume of Portland cement and 2 volumes of sand, with flush joints. The top of the wall shall be brought to a true even grade. The present coping stones at grade shall not be disturbed or reset. After the wall is brought up to grade for its entire length, the contractor shall backfill against it with earth where needed to bring the embankment level with the top of the wall.

REMOVAL OF STOP PLANK ETC.

Section 12. The contractor shall, when and as directed by the engineer, remove the present 3" X 12" stop plank from the crest of the spillway. The stop plank grooves or slots shall then be filled with a mortar composed of 1 part of Portland cement and 1½ parts of sand, in order to prevent the use of any stop plank on the dam in the future.

CONTROL OF WATER

Section 13. The contractor at his own expense shall control the level of the pond and the flow from the pond as directed by the engineer during the progress of the work.

At all times the water shall be controlled so that, in the opinion of the engineer, it shall neither affect the quality of the work being done nor constitute a menace to property.

CLEANING UP

Section 14. After the work is complete, the contractor shall remove any temporary structures used in the work. He shall remove all lumber, chips, loose stones, rubbish, surplus earth etc. and leave the dam and surroundings in a neat and clean condition suitable to the engineer.

LINES AND GRADES

Section 15. All lines and grades will be given by the engineer, but the contractor shall provide and place such stakes and batter boards as may be required.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Section 16. The plans and specifications are intended to be explanatory of each other but should any discrepancy appear or any misunderstanding arise as to the import of anything contained in either, the explanation of the engineer shall be final and binding on the contractor. Any correction of errors or omissions in plans or specifications may be made by the engineer when such correction is necessary for the proper fulfillment of their intention as construed by him.

ABSENCE OF THE CONTRACTOR

Section 17. Whenever the contractor is not present on the work, orders may be given by the engineer and shall be received and obeyed by the foreman in charge of the work.

INSURING PUBLIC SAFETY

Section 18. Measures shall be taken during the progress of the work to insure the public safety by such precautions of watching and lighting as may be necessary. These precautions shall be satisfactory to the Board or its agents and should the contractor fail so to do, the Board will provide the same and the expense so incurred shall be deducted from any money due or to become due the contractor.

ARTICLE 5. If the work or any part thereof shall be found defective at any time before the final acceptance of the work the contractor shall forthwith make good such defect in a manner satisfactory to the engineer, and if any materials brought upon the ground for use in the work or selected for the same shall be condemned by the engineer as unsuitable or not in conformity with the specifications the contractor shall forthwith remove such material from the vicinity of the work. The inspection of the work shall not relieve the contractor of any of his responsibility to furnish sound work as herein prescribed and defective work shall be made good, and unsuitable work may be rejected.

Any of the work which during its progress and before its final acceptance, that might become damaged from any cause shall be replaced by good and satisfactory work.

ARTICLE 6. The Contractor shall employ only competent men to do the work and shall in all operations connected with the work inform himself of all existing state laws. His attention is called to Chap. 149 of the General Laws and Amendments thereto.

ARTICLE 7. The engineer may make alterations in the lines of grades, either before or after the commencement of construction; if such alterations increase the amount of work, such increase shall be paid for according to the quantity actually done and at the price determined by the engineer to be just.

ARTICLE 8. The work shall be commenced within five days after the signing of this contract and shall be diligently prosecuted to completion in such order as may be prescribed by the engineer. The rate of progress shall be such that on or before August 15th the whole work shall be completed in accordance with the terms of this contract.

ARTICLE 9. The contractor shall take all responsibility of the work and take all precautions for preventing injuries to persons and property in or about the work; shall bear all losses resulting to him on account of the amount or character of the work, or on account of the nature of the ground in or on which the work is done being different from what was estimated or expected, or on account of the weather, elements or other cause; and shall assume the defence of, and indemnify and save harmless the Board, its officers and its agents, from all claims relating to labor or materials furnished for the work; or to injuries to any person or corporation received or sustained by or from the contractor or his employees in doing the work, or to any act, omission or neglect of the contractor or his employees therein.

ARTICLE 10. The County of Hampden shall pay and the contractor shall receive as full compensation for everything furnished and done by the contractor under this contract. and also for all loss and damage arising out of the nature of work aforesaid, or from the action of elements, or from any unforseen obstruction or difficulty encountered in the prosecution of the work; and for all risks of every description connected with the work, and for well and faithfully

completing the work, as herein provided, including removal of old spillway channel construction of new reinforced concrete spillway channel and backfilling, stone paving on upstream slopes, resetting of stones in downstream wall, removal of stop plank etc. the sum of

_____ $_____

ARTICLE 11. The engineer shall as soon as practicable after the completion of the contract notify in writing the Board that the work is completed in accordance with the plans and specifications and the Board shall within thirty-five days after such notification from the engineer, pay the entire sum due under the contract.

ARTICLE 12. Neither the Board nor any menber or agent thereof shall be liable for, or be held to pay, any money to the contractor, except as provided in this contract, and on making payment as aforesaid, they shall be released from all claims or liability to the contractor for anything done or furnished for, or relating to the work, or for any act or neglect of the Board or of any person relating to or affecting the work.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have hereunto set their hands this

day of in the year 1935.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS _____

HAMPDEN COUNTY, _____

MASSACHUSETTS. _____

CONTRACTOR _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____

RESIDENCE _____

February 15, 1939

Board of Selectmen,
Town of Palmer,
Mass.

Dear Sirs:

The County Commissioners would like to have your Board come in to our meeting on Thursday, February 23rd next, at 11 A.M. to discuss the removal of flashboards on the Thompson Lake Dam.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman.

CWB/N

MEMBER
AM. SOC. C. E.
INST. C. E. GREAT BRITAIN
ENG. INST. OF CANADA

JAMES L. TIGHE

CONSULTING ENGINEER
CALEDONIAN BUILDING, 189 HIGH STREET
HOLYOKE, MASS.
TELEPHONE 5525
MEMBER AM. INST. OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.

MEMBER
BOSTON SOC. C. E.
ENG. SOC. WEST. MASS.
AM. & N. E. W. W. ASSOC'S

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
ANALYSIS OF WATER

WATER POWER INVESTIGATIONS
AND DEVELOPMENT
DAMS AND POWER INSTALLATIONS
ESTIMATES AND APPRAISALS

February 23, 1939

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County, Court House
Springfield, Mass.

Charles W. Bray, Chairman,

Dear Sir:

In view of the coming Spring freshets and to prevent any damage being done thereby to the Thompson Lake dam in Palmer which caused so much concern in the flood of Sept. last, I would recommend that the 7 inch flashboard now on the spillway of the structure be taken off. Before this is done the State fish hatchery downstream should be notified, and in order to cause as little inconvenience as possible by released water, the flashboard should not be removed suddenly but gradually lifted inch by inch so that the water would pass under and not over it.

If it is desirable to maintain this pond at its present flashboard level the top of the dam can be raised a couple of feet and thus provide a suitable free board.

This can be very easily done as the dam is 34 feet wide on top giving ample width for a raise of 2 or even 3 feet if thought advisable.

Respectfully submitted,

James L. Tighe

February 24, 1939

George B. Cheney, Selectman,
Town of Palmer, Mass.

Dear Mr. Cheney:

Enclosed find copy of letter dated February 23, 1939 from our County Engineer, Mr. James L. Tighe, which will explain to you what he believes should be done to the dam at Thompson Lake in the Town of Palmer.

The County Commissioners feel that this suggestion of Mr. Tighe should be carried out as we understand the dam is only 11" higher than the spillway.

Mr. Tighe suggests raising the dam either two or three feet, whichever thought advisable. We are sure your Board of Selectmen will handle this in the best way possible as suggested by Mr. Tighe.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman.

CWB/N

December 12, 1951

Lake Thompson Civic Association, Inc.
c/o Alfred Albare
Flynt Street
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located on Lake Thompson has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attetnion is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

"One flashboard is still in place on the dam. This flashboard should be removed until after the heavy Spring runoff."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman

_____

_____

Lake Thompson Civic Association
Palmer

Lake Thompson Civic Assocition inc.

Palmer Mass.

March 3 1952

Office of the

County Commissioners

37 Elm St.

Springfield Mass.

Dear Sirs;

In reply to your Letter of Dec 12 1951 we of the Lake Thompson Civic Association have complied with you request, and removed the Flashboard until after the Spring runoff.

Thank you for your cooprtation

Your's very truly

Armond Ramos Sec.

Copy of this letter sent to George H. McDonnell, Cty Hydraulic Engr.

COPY

C-D

October 24, 1955

Mr. Clarence C. Johnson
R. F. D. #1
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In reference to your letter of October 18, 1955, to the Office of the County Commissioners, Springfield, Mass., pertaining to the discharge of surface water from the toll road into Lake Thompson at Palmer, Mass., the undersigned would be pleased to meet with you and other members of your Lake Thompson Civic Association at the site in Palmer on Saturday next, October 29, 1955. The best time for this meeting would be at approximately 3:00 P.M. I would suggest that we meet at the dam at the Lake outlet and then proceed to the point or area you have in question.

If Saturday, the 29th of October, is not satisfactory to you, Iwould be pleased to meet with you on Sunday afternoon, October 30th.

Will you kindly call or write the undersigned as to your choice of dates.

Very truly yours,

GHM/emm

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

COPY

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
189 HIGH STREET
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL
C-D

October 31, 1955

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In reference to the letter of October 18, 1955, from the Lake Thompson Civic Association, Inc. of Palmer, the undersigned met with Mr. Clarence Johnson and other members of the Lake Thompson Civic Association in Palmer at the site of their dam on Sunday afternoon, October 30, 1955.

The members of the Lake Thompson Civic Association are concerned over the fact that the drainage pipelines from the surface water drainage system of the Toll Highway have been constructed in such a manner that they discharge into Lake Thompson. Members of the Association feel that by discharging storm water drainage into the Lake, surface water runoff is being concentrated at high rates and consequently the spillway of their dam is affected.

I pointed out to the members present at our meeting in the field that the discharge of water by the Toll Highway is a matter that must be taken up with the Toll Highway authorities and with the person or persons on whose property the water is discharged.

In regard to the dam, the members present agreed verbally that based upon the experience of last August, the size of the spillway should be increased so that greater quantities of water can pass over the dam without endangering the structure. Consequently, the plans and specifications of the proposed spillway additions will be prepared and submitted for approval so that construction of the additional masonry required can be done in the early Spring of next year.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/emm

LAKE THOMPSON CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
PALMER, MASS.

October 18th, 1955

Office of the County Commissioners
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

The members of the Lake Thompson Civis Association, Inc. have a problem in connection with additional water being diverted into the lake. This may prove to be a considerable amount of water as it will come from about a half mile section of the turnpike that is now under construction.

As this will affect our dam we would like to meet a representative from the County Commissioners office at your earliest convenience to discuss the matter. If at all possible a Saturday date would be the most convenient for us if this can be arranged.

Please advise as soon as possible when a date will be available so that we can make arrangements to meet your representative.

Very truly yours,

LAKE THOMPSON CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Clarence C Johnson

Trustee

Reply to:
Clarence C. Johnson
R. F. D. 1
Palmer, Mass.

See Mr. McDonnell's letter dated October 24, 1955

copy of this letter mailed to
George H. McDonnell, County Hydraulic Engineer,
on October 20, 1955.

C-D Palmer

March 30, 1956

Lake Thompson Civic Association, Inc. COPY
of Palmer, Mass.
Mr. Gordon A. Christiansen
Thompson Drive
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

The season of the year is approaching when construction of additional spillway capacity could be started at your dam at Lake Thompson. I have met with representatives of your Association and pointed out that the County will require improvements to the dam spillway and enlargement of the spillway to meet possible flood flow conditions. It is essential that the spillway be enlarged and that this enlargement be carried out in 1956. The work should be started as soon as possible and completed by early summer.

Plans and specifications of the improvements should be filed with the County Commissioners as soon as possible for their review and recommendations or approval.

If for any reason you do not plan to file plans and specifications within the next thirty days and to complete construction within the summer months of this year, kindly so notify the undersigned. Failure to receive such a notice will indicate your agreement to this construction and planning schedule.

Very truly yours,

GHM/emm

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

COPY

LAKE THOMPSON CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
PALMER, MASS.

July 27, 1956.

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners
for the County of Hampden:

We wish to inform you that the repairs of dam located on Smith Street in Palmer Massachusetts, will start immediately. All work will be done in accordance with revised plan and revised specifications filed June 5, 1956 and approved with one exception at County Commissioners' Meeting of June 20, 1956.

This work will be done by James J. Horan of Monson, Massachusetts. The contract which was signed on July 23, 1956 states that all work must be completed within 60 days.

Since all work is to be done subject to the approval of your Hydraulic Engineer, Mr George H. McDonnell, we are marking him for a copy of this letter.

Yours truly,

LAKE THOMPSON CIVIC ASSOCIATION INC.

Gordon H. Christiansen

GORDON H. CHRISTIANSEN, Chairman
Spillway Improvement Committee

Copy: Tighe and Bond
189 High Street
Holyoke, Mass.

Atten: Mr. George H. McDonnell.

Received in Hampden County Commissioners' Office on
July 30, 1956.

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
~~189 HIGH STREET~~
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

NOTE: OUR NEW ADDRESS
BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

CD-Palmer

August 2, 1956

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
31 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Enclosed for your information and file purposes are copies of correspondence regarding dams recently inspected. These letters are self explanatory.

While in Palmer on Tuesday, July 31st I also inspected the dam at Thompson Lake and found that the Contractor has begun the construction of the improvements to the spillway at this dam. Construction work was progressing satisfactorily.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

LAKE THOMPSON CIVIC ASSOCIATION

March 31, 1964

Gentlemen:

We wuuld like to bring to your attention a problem that we have had for the past two years, 1962-1963.

The State Fish Hatchery at Palmer has lead to draw water from our lake to maintain proper level fo water at the hatchery, this has created a problem at the lake, for many people have shallow wells and by lowering the level of the lake has lowered the level of the wells.

The Palmer Board of Health stepped in and stopped the lowering of the Lake because it was causing a health hazard.

Since 1955 when the turnpike went through the amount of water we recieve through run off has been cut down considerably. The lake has no regular brooks that run into it, it is mainly fed by springs. We feel that another source of water should be found for hatchery.

We would like you to give this matter your sincere and immediate attention.

Sincerely yours,
Lake Thompson
Civic Association.
Theodore R. Knapp
Theodore R. Knapp
Secretary

tk:ck

GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN
EDWARD J. BAYON

TIGHE & BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
INVESTIGATIONS, REPORTS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

CD Palmer
March 17, 1969

Lake Thompson Civic Association, Inc.
Thompson Drive
Palmer, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to your dam in the Town of Palmer, and the fact that there now exists a heavy snow cover throughout Western Massachusetts. The water content of this snow cover, coupled with a warm spring rain could result in extremely heavy runoff conditions. Consequently, the Commissioners of Hampden County have directed that I advise you to be sure that the spillway facilities at your dam are clear of any obstruction and that you take all precautions necessary to protect your dam as well as persons and property downstream.

Be sure that flashboards have been removed from the spillway. If possible, water level in storage should be lowered under controlled conditions by opening drawdown gates. The rate of drawdown should be low enough so as not to cause any flooding downstream.

If you have any question in connection with this matter, the undersigned can be reached at the above address and telephone number.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/amd

GEORGE H. M. DONNELL
EDWARD W. SHERIDAN
EDWARD J. DAYON

TEGHE & BOND

CONSULTING ENGINEERS

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
INVESTIGATIONS, REPORTS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

CD Palmer
March 17, 1969

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Fish Hatchery
Ware Road
Palmer, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to your dams at the Hatchery in the Town of Palmer, and the fact that there now exists a heavy snow cover throughout Western Massachusetts. The water content of this snow cover, coupled with a warm spring rain could result in extremely heavy runoff conditions. Consequently, the Commissioners of Hampden County have directed that I advise you to be sure that the spillway facilities at your dams are clear of any obstruction and that you take all precautions necessary to protect your dams as well as persons and property downstream.

Any flashboards or stoplogs on the spillway facilities should be removed under controlled conditions so as not to release large quantities of water downstream which could cause temporary flooding. Flashboards should not be replaced until after the spring heavy runoff has passed.

If you have any question in connection with this matter, the undersigned can be reached at the above address and telephone number.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/amd

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

County of Hampden

Springfield, Mass.

Office of the
County Commissioners
52 State Street

William F. Stapleton
Chairman
~~Ralph X. Nash~~
Lloyd W. Fradet
Stephen A. Moynahan

October 29, 1969

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State Fish Hatchery
Ware Road
Palmer, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that the Lower Dam located at the State Fish Hatchery and situated directly beside Ware Road, has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

> "This dam is in about the same condition as noted last year. The concrete spillway section at the right of the dam is good. The horizontal small diameter pipe is still laying across the crest and it results in an increase in pond level of about 2 inches.
>
> The left spillway had stoplogs in place to the normal height and these were supported as usual with a central vertical beam.
>
> The left vertical stoplog slot of this left spillway, is eroding and the concrete is breaking off. Repairs should be made to the masonry before it deteriorates much further. The condition is not dangerous but could become dangerous in the next year or two. Repairs made now at a nominal cost, may prevent much more extensive and expensive repairs at a later date. The fish hatchery personnel should be advised of the condition."

The repairs as recommended by the County Hydraulic Engineer, should be

made in the not too distant future, in order to prevent further damage to the concrete masonry as a result of erosion, water action and weathering.

Any further information which you may desire, will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BY:_____

_____

_____

Lions Club Dam



- Palmer

Also see: Dam Report Section - Palmer.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Lions Club Dam
Name	Lions Club

PALMER
D15018

LIONS CLUB DAM
D15018

NO IMAGE ON FILE FOR THIS RECORD

(INFORMATION EXISTS ONLY ON A FILE CARD FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FORMER HAMPDEN COUNTY ENGINEER.)

Mongo Dam



- Palmer

Also see: Dam Report Section - Palmer.

Abutters	Massachsetts Turnpike Authority
City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Mongo Dam

PALMER
D15019

MONGO DAM
D15019

NO IMAGE ON FILE FOR THIS RECORD

(INFORMATION EXISTS ONLY ON A FILE CARD FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FORMER HAMPDEN COUNTY ENGINEER.)

New England Power Company Dam aka Three Rivers Dam fka Otis Company Dam



1955 Palmer

Located on the Chicopee River, downstream of Three Rivers. Also see: Otis Company Dam, Textile Printing Company Dam, Boston Duck Company Dam. See also: County Highways (Palmer) - "Dam on Chicopee River" - ch01012.

Abutters	New England Power Company
City/Town	Palmer
Dam	New England Power Company Dam
Dam	Three Rivers Dam
Dam	Otis Company Dam
Name	New England Power Service Company
Water	Chicopee River

TOWN OF PALMER
MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN . . . HOLBROOK BUILDING

November 17, 1955

Hampden County Commissioners,
County Court House,
Elm Street,
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

It has been brought to the attention of this Board that the dam on the Chicopee River, owned by the New England Power Company, creates a serious flood threat to the village of Three Rivers in the event of heavy rains. We believe the greater part of this hazard is due to faulty flood gates which are not in proper working order.

In order that steps may be taken to eliminate this hazard, we respectfully request that the County Hydraulic Engineer be assigned for investigation and report.

Very truly yours,

George B. Cheney

George B. Cheney
Chairman

cc to
BGrzywna

Copy of this letter mailed to
George H. McDonnell, County Hydraulic
Engineer, on November 18, 1955.

CD Palmer

Dec. 1, 1955

COPY

Board of Selectmen
Holbrook Building
Palmer, Mass.

Att. Mr. George B.,Cheney, Chm.

Gentlemen:

In connection with your letter of Nov.17,1955 the undersigned will investigate the possibility that the dam on the Chicopee River, owned by the New England Power Company, may create a flood threat to the village of Three Rivers under certain runoff conditions, as described in said letter. Upon completion of our investigation a report will be made to the County Commissioners, and information forwarded to you.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHMcomb

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
189 HIGH STREET
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

C-D Palmer

January 5, 1956

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the request of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Palmer, pertaining to the dam on the Chicopee River, owned by the New England Power Company, we have made a preliminary investigation of the conditions set forth in the letter from the Board of Selectmen, and report to you as follows.

The New England Power Company Dam is located southerly of the built-up section of Three Rivers on the Chicopee River, at a distance of about ½ mile downstream from the confluence of the Ware River and the Quaboag River. This dam was formerly the property of the Otis Company. It is situated at a point where the drainage area contributory is approximately 650 square miles. The structure is of concrete masonry approximately 211 feet in length and about 30 feet in height. The pond formed by the dam is used for the purpose of generating electric power.

In the letter from the Selectmen of the Town of Palmer, the Board of Selectmen state that their attention has been called to the fact that the dam on the Chicopee River creates a serious flood threat to the village of Three Rivers in the event of heavy rains and the subsequent storm water runoff. The Selectmen believe that the greater part of this hazard is due to faulty flood gates which are not in proper working order. They request that steps be taken to eliminate this hazard and ask for an investigation and a report on the subject.

There are no flood gates at the dam in question. There are the usual inlets or penstocks, so-called, that carry water from a head works to the water wheels in the Power Station. Near the left end of the dam and in the south abutment area of the structure are located two gates that are approximately 4 feet x 6 feet in dimension. These gates are near the bottom of the dam and they operate from a mechanism located on the surface of the abutment masonry. These gates are probably those referred to as flood gates. In the opinion of the undersigned, they are too small to have ever been intended for flood gates. I believe that their installation was for the purpose of drawing down the pond behind the dam at time of normal or low water for the purpose of examining the pond, doing the maintenance work in the pond, or making alterations and repairs to the water side of the dam and abutments. The capacity of these two gates is small compared to the runoff that will flow by the dam in the Chicopee River during times of storm.

There is one additional gate in the left abutment area of the dam but this gate is very small in size and is high up on the dam. Its purpose is simply to sluice surface floating debris from in front of the intake rack through the dam and below the Power House.

An examination of the two large draw-down gates shows that these gates are in working order. In fact, it is apparent that these gates have been operated recently, and questioning the employees at the site, the undersigned learned that on two different occasions during the last two months these gates have been operated.

Without a doubt the owners of this dam, that is the New England Power Company, would agree to open these two draw-down gates during times of extremely heavy run-off conditions in order to aid in passing water through the dam. However, the amount of aid to be granted during times of extreme flood conditions will be very small and not generally noticeable to the average citizen in the Three Rivers area.

If the water level in the Chicopee River upstream from the New England Power Company dam is to be lowered materially in times of heavy storm by the opening of any gate or gates at the dam, it would probably be necessary to install large flood gates either through the dam or to lower the crest of the dam and install a moveable type of crest that could be lowered with a rising flood stage in the river. This would constitute a major change at the dam and require a substantial expenditure by the Power Company.

Before any definite steps would be taken to discuss or to recommend alterations to the dam in question, it would seem advisable that a study be made of the Chicopee River as well as the Ware River and the Quaboag River from the location of the dam up to and through the Three Rivers area. This study should be a hydraulic study and should determine the water surface elevation at the various locations where bridges cross these rivers or where the valley narrows sufficiently to cause restrictions in the flow of water. It is possible that there are sufficient restrictions upstream of the New England Power Company dam so that a profile of the water surface would show a substantial increase in elevation caused by restrictions and barriers upstream of the dam.

A complete survey of this nature would entail collecting data available from such sources as the Corps of Engineers of the U. S. Army, the Department of Public Works of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Central Vermont Railroad, and by conducting surveys along the Chicopee, Ware and Quaboag Rivers, in order to determine the water levels or elevations at various points during

the peak flood conditions. If sufficient data could be gathered by such a study and survey, a profile of the water surface could then be plotted and the location of barriers to the flow of water determined. In other words, it is the feeling of the undersigned that before any steps would be taken by your Board to require changes in the New England Power Company dam, a general overall survey of the entire river area should be made.

In conclusion, we wish to point out again that from our inspections at the dam the gates are in working condition and that these gates are not flood gates but undoubtedly were installed simply for the purpose of lowering the pond behind the dam for maintenance purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

GHM/emm

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

March 15, 1956

George B. Cheney, Chairman,
Board of Selectmen,
Palmer, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Cheney:

As requested by you today in a telephone conversation with me, I enclose a copy of our Hydraulic Engineer's report of January 5, 1956 regarding the New England Power Company dam on the Chicopee River.

Very truly yours,

CHAIRMAN, HAMPDEN COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS.

WFS/N
encl.

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
189 HIGH STREET
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

C.D.-Palmer

March 16, 1956

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

In accordance with your request the undersigned inspected the dam of the New England Power Company located on the Chicopee River downstream of the Village of Three Rivers and found that the dam is in normal condition, in a good state of repair and maintenance and that a normal height of flashboards with the usual pipe pins is in place. These flashboards are designed to fail and be swept off of the top of the dam during high water.

While in Palmer I stopped at the office of the Board of Selectmen and also talked with Mr. Cheney by telephone. I explained to him about the report received at his office on Friday, March 16, which he had not as yet had a chance to review.

From my visit of Friday, March 16, I still believe that a complete review of the river and the various bottlenecks must be made to arrive at the proper solution to the complaints of the citizens regarding river water levels at flood stages.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/mdb

COPY

C.D.-Palmer

March 16, 1956

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

In accordance with your request the undersigned inspected the dam of the New England Power Company located on the Chicopee River downstream of the Village of Three Rivers and found that the dam is in normal condition, in a good state of repair and maintenance and that a normal height of flashboards with the usual pipe pins is in place. These flashboards are designed to fail and be swept off of the top of the dam during high water.

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From my visit of Friday, March 16, I still believe that a complete review of the river and the various bottlenecks must be made to arrive at the proper solution to the complaints of the citizens regarding river water levels at flood stages.

Very truly yours,

COPY

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/mdb

March 22, 1956

Board of Selectmen,
Town of Palmer,
Massachusetts.

Gentlemen:

On March 16, 1956 our Hydraulic Engineer inspected the New England Power Company dam located on the Chicopee River and we enclose a copy of his latest report on that dam dated March 16, 1956. We call your attention to the last paragraph of Mr. McDonnell's letter in which he suggests that a complete review of the river and the various bottle-necks be made. We suggest that your Board request the Division of Waterways to make a survey of the entire problem.

For your information, we enclose copy of a letter sent by our Board to the Worcester County Electric Company and we also enclose a copy of a letter to our Board from the County Hydraulic Engineer regarding the old Street Railway trestle across the Quaboag River downstream of the Worcester County Electric Company sub-station.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman.

WFS/N
3 encls.

Copy of this letter sent to
George H. McDonnell, County
Hydraulic Engineer.

C O P Y

March 22, 1956

Board of Selectmen,
Town of Palmer,
Massachusetts.

Gentlemen:

On March 16, 1956 our Hydraulic Engineer inspected the New England Power Company dam located on the Chicopee River and we enclose a copy of his latest report on that dam dated March 16, 1956. We call your attention to the last paragraph of Mr. McDonnell's letter in which he suggests that a complete review of the river and the various bottle-necks be made. We suggest that your Board request the Division of Waterways to make a survey of the entire problem.

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Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman.

WFS/N
3 encls.

(C O P Y)

August 31, 1956

President, Chamber of Commerce,
Three Rivers,
Massachusetts.

Dear Sir:

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of speaking to your members and it was very evident that the primary concern of the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce was the matter of proper flood control on the Chicopee River.

Knowing of your deep concern, I am sending you the enclosed copy of a letter to the Palmer Board of Selectmen expressing the County Commissioners' desire to co-operate with the Selectmen and others in an effort to bring about the needed improvements that will assure protection from floods to the people of Three Rivers and other sections of Palmer.

We have suggested that a meeting of interested parties be held as soon as the Charles T. Main Company survey is completed.

Please be assured of our continued interest in this matter.

Very truly yours,

CHAIRMAN, HAMPDEN COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS.

WFS/N
encl.

August 31,1956

Mr. George B. Cheney, Chairman,
Board of Selectmen,
Palmer, Massachusetts.

Dear Sir:

In March of this year, the County Commissioners submitted to your Board a report of the County Hydraulic Engineer, George H. McDonnell, relating to conditions on the Chicopee River in Three Rivers. It was suggested that a hydraulic study and survey be made of the Chicopee River as well as the Ware River and the Quaboag River from the location of the New England Power Company dam up to and through the Three Rivers area.

It has come to our attention that you are having such a general overall survey of the entire river area made by the Charles T. Main Company. Upon completion of the survey, the County Commissioners would be pleased to meet with the Palmer Selectmen, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and State Division of Waterways engineers.

Since it is likely that State and Federal funds may be needed to bring about adequate flood control, we suggest that area legislators and Congressman Philbin be invited to the meeting.

If your Board would prefer to have the County Commissioners call the meeting, we would do so, when notified that Charles T. Main Co. has completed their work and made their report to you.

The County Commissioners offer their co-operation and assistance in this important matter.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman.

WFS/N

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

C.D. Palmer
Nov. 1, 1956

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
31 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed herewith please find a letter to the New England Power Co., and to the Board of Selectmen of Palmer, regarding a conference held with two members of the New England Power Company, Mr. Cheney of Palmer, and the undersigned at the site of the New England Power Company dam just downstream of Three Rivers in Palmer on the Chicopee River. The enclosed letters are self-explanatory.

If you concur in each of these letters, will you kindly forward them to the power company and to the Board of Selectmen. We have included sufficient copies so that the Board of selectmen can have a copy of the New England Power Company letter.

If you wish to discuss this matter, I will be pleased to meet with you at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/f

Copy of Mr. McDonnell's letter dated Nov.7,1956
sent to Board of Selectmen, Palmer.

Nov. 7, 1956

Board of Selectmen
Town Office
412 Main St.
Palmer, Mass.

Att: George Cheney, Chairman

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find a copy of a communication sent to the New England Power Co. as per their request, regarding the discussion held at the site of the dam below Three Rivers on Wednesday, Oct. 31, 1956. The enclosed is self-explanatory.

We will keep your Board informed of any information, data or plans filed with this office.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

William F. Stapleton

Thomas F. Sullivan

Acting Commissioner Francis M. O'Keefe

GHM/f

(C O P Y)

Copy of ~~letter dated~~ Nov. 7, 1956 to New England Power Co. enclosed herewith.

Nov. 7, 1956

New England Power Co.
441 Stewart St.
Boston, Mass.

Att: Mr. Rouner

Gentlemen:

On Wednesday, Oct. 31, 1956, our County Hydraulic Engineer met with Mr. Mosley and Mr. Pierce of your company, together with Mr. Cheney, Selectman of Palmer, regarding the proposed alteration to your dam, just downstream of Three Rivers on the Chicopee River in Massachusetts.

Your representatives requested information as to the amount of work that would be required in removing the dam and power facilities in order that resulting conditions would constitute abandonment of the dam. If your company proposes to abandon the facilities, it would seem necessary in accordance with the General Law that the dam be removed so that it will not impound any water and that the channel of the stream be returned to a condition wherein no ponding of water would occur, and flow in the river at the dam location will revert to conditions that would have occurred and would occur had no dam ever been built at this location.

The question was asked whether or not the lowering of the dam to some predetermined elevation to result in a low enough river level to eliminate the effects of the dam in Three Rivers would be sufficient to constitute abandonment of the facilities. Since the drainage area at the location of your dam is over one square mile, any obstruction to the flow of the river left in the stream bed would constitute a dam and thus would require maintenance. The structure would be inspected in accordance with the Laws of the Commonwealth and from time to time, whenever maintenance was required to keep the structure safe from an engineering and hydraulic viewpoint, such maintenance work would be required of your company by the County. Just as long as any portion of the dam is left in the stream to impound water, the County Commissioners are responsible under the Laws of the Commonwealth to see that the structure is maintained and is a safe dam.

In regard to the lowering of the crest of the dam a distance of 4 feet so that the present pond level could be maintained with a total of 6 feet of flashboards, the County would be agreeable to this alteration provided acceptable plans and specifications for the alteration work were filed.

In connection with any alteration which would be done at the dam, it is necessary that plans and specifications be filed with the County. These plans and specifications should be construction plans and specifications for the work. The plans should be in blueprint form and the specifications should be typewritten.

When filing plans and specifications with the County, a petition to the County Commissioners requesting permission to make the alterations should also be filed. The filing fee is $5 and the check should be made out to Hampden County. The filing fee should be submitted with the petition and the plans and specifications.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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GHM/f

Nov. 7, 1956

New England Power Co.
441 Stewart St.
Boston, Mass.

Att: Mr. Rouner

Gentlemen:

On Wednesday, Oct. 31, 1956, our County Hydraulic Engineer met with Mr. Mosley and Mr. Pierce of your company, together with Mr. Cheney, Selectman of Palmer, regarding the proposed alteration to your dam, just downstream of Three Rivers on the Chicopee River in Massachusetts.

Your representatives requested information as to the amount of work that would be required in removing the dam and power facilities in order that resulting conditions would constitute abandonment of the dam. If your company proposes to abandon the facilities, it would seem necessary in accordance with the General Law that the dam be removed so that it will not impound any water and that the channel of the stream be returned to a condition wherein no ponding of water would occur, and flow in the river at the dam location will revert to conditions that would have occurred and would occur had no dam ever been built at this location.

The question was asked whether or not the lowering of the dam to some predetermined elevation to result in a low enough river level to eliminate the effects of the dam in Three Rivers would be sufficient to constitute abandonment of the facilities. Since the drainage area at the location of your dam is over one square mile, any obstruction to the flow of the river left in the stream bed would constitute a dam and thus would require maintenance. The structure would be inspected in accordance with the Laws of the Commonwealth and from time to time, whenever maintenance was required to keep the structure safe from an engineering and hydraulic viewpoint, such maintenance work would be required of your company by the County. Just as long as any portion of the dam is left in the stream to impound water, the County Commissioners are responsible under the Laws of the Commonwealth to see that the structure is maintained and is a safe dam.

In regard to the lowering of the crest of the dam a distance of 4 feet so that the present pond level could be maintained with a total of 6 feet of flashboards, the County would be agreeable to this alteration provided acceptable plans and specifications for the alteration work were filed.

In connection with any alteration which would be done at the dam, it is necessary that plans and specifications be filed with the County. These plans and specifications should be construction plans and specifications for the work. The plans should be in blueprint form and the specifications should be typewritten.

When filing plans and specifications with the County, a petition to the County Commissioners requesting permission to make the alterations should also be filed. The filing fee is $5 and the check should be made out to Hampden County. The filing fee should be submitted with the petition and the plans and specifications.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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GHM/f

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

CD Palmer

Jan. 14, 1957

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the New England Power Company dam, on the Chicopee River, just downstream from the Three Rivers section of Palmer. When I met with citizens of Three Rivers and certain Town officials of Palmer, a request was made that the flashboards on the dam be removed until after the Spring heavy run-off.

I discussed this matter with you in brief when I was at your office in December. At that time I mentioned that I would search our files to determine whether or not the Power Company had the right to install and maintain flashboards on this dam.

I have reviewed an old file kept by Mr. Tighe and have found some drawings of the dam. None of the drawings indicate flashboards on the crest nor does a report written by Mr. Tighe to the County Commissioners of Hampden County, dated September, 1910, regarding this dam, make any mention of flashboards.

Communications have been written in the past by citizens of Three Rivers and Palmer, to the Board of County Commissioners with requests for the removal of the flashboards. Mr. Tighe has a letter dated May 14, 1940, a copy of which is enclosed. This letter appears to be his report in connection with the requests for removal of the flashboards.

Also enclosed is a copy of some notes found in Mr. Tighe's old file that seem to relate to this same subject. I am submitting these to you for your review and information.

Nowhere can I find any definite indication as to the exact height of flashboards allowed to be used at this dam. At some time in the past it would seem that from 2 feet to 2½ feet of flashboards have been in use. I am not certain of the exact vertical feet of flashboards now on the dam, but I will measure these flashboards this week.

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Springfield, Massachusetts

CD Palmer
Jan. 14, 1957

I am of the opinion that as long as the flashboards do not endanger the dam itself, from a structural viewpoint, the matter of flashboards and backing up of water, is outside of the legal jurisdiction of your Board. However, a final decision in this matter would seem to require a legal opinion rather than an engineering opinion.

I know the Town officials of Palmer and the citizens of Three Rivers want the flashboards removed. Perhaps, if your Board does not have the authority in this case, the matter could be taken up with the Power Company and their co-operation in this regard requested.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

Enc.
GHM/cmb

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
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TIGHE & BOND, INC.
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PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

C.D. Palmer
Jan. 23, 1957

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the dam of the New England Power Company on the Chicopee River, just downstream from the village of Three Rivers in Palmer. We have continued to search our files for any further information regarding flashboards on this dam and have found nothing more than has already been sent to your office. We have checked the flashboards on the dam and find that at the present time they are approximately 2 ft. in height. The station operator claims that the boards are maintained at this height and that whenever they are changed, or replaced, three boards about 8" in height each are installed.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/f

January 25, 1957

New England Power Company,
Boston, Massachusetts.

Gentlemen:

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Palmer and a group of citizens of the village of Three Rivers within the Township of Palmer recently made request of the County Commissioners that the flashboards on your dam on the Chicopee River downstream from Three Rivers be removed. It was felt that the flashboards by raising the height of the dam, would cause the backing up of water and onto the properties of various parties in the village of Three Rivers.

In petitioning the County Commissioners, it was the belief of the petitioners that the County Commissioners had statutory authority to cause the removal of the flashboards on the dam. The County Commissioners do not have authority to cause the removal of the flashboards.

This letter is being sent to your firm so that they may consider the advisability of removing the flashboards so as to reduce or to alleviate the threat of water backing up onto the property of persons in the village of Three Rivers.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman.

WJF/N
copy to
George B. Cheney,
Chairman, Selectmen
of Palmer.

copy of this letter mailed
to George H. McDonnell, County
Hydraulic Engineer, on Jan. 29,

Rec'd in Hampden County Commissioners Office August 12, 1957

NEW ENGLAND POWER COMPANY

NEW ENGLAND ELECTRIC SYSTEM

441 STUART STREET, BOSTON 16, MASS.

August 8, 1957

Board of Selectmen
Palmer
Massachusetts

Attention: Mr. George B. Cheney, Chairman

Dear Mr. Cheney:

Realizing that flood damage studies on the Chicopee River system are being conducted by your Town as well as by other governmental agencies, you may find it helpful if New England Power Company, as owner of the Three Rivers Dam, supplied you some comments with respect to that structure.

Records show that the Three Rivers dam and power development were constructed in 1910 by a manufacturing company which obtained appropriate legal authority for its construction. It is believed that since that date there has been considerable encroachment by the public in general upon the flood plain of the river upstream from the dam, which coupled with the exceptionally great floods of recent years, directs attention to this dam in a study of the reduction of flood damages in the community, as was brought out in the 1956 Chas. T. Main flood report to the Town of Palmer.

New England Power Company acquired this hydroelectric facility in 1942 during World War II when it was surplus to the needs of its industrial owner. That period was characterized by rapid wartime utility load growth and a general scarcity of critical materials for new power developments.

In the fifteen years since the Three Rivers hydro plant was acquired there has been a marked increase in the general costs of operation, maintenance and taxes which has been particularly damaging to small plants such as this one. Simultaneously, there has been a pronounced trend toward power production in large, efficient steam-electric and hydroelectric developments, as well as general improvement in power transmission facilities. As a result, the Three Rivers plant is now, economically, a borderline operation, although under normal conditions we might continue to maintain and operate it for some time to come, or until faced with some major increase in operating or maintenance costs.

As a power company we are, of course, vitally interested in the welfare of the communities which we serve, and therefore wish to express to you our

willingness, under the circumstances presently involved in your Town, to cooperate in the alleviation of flood damages even to the extent of contributing the Three Rivers Dam for the purpose of its demolition and removal, if that should prove to be part of the preferred solution to the flood damage problem in that area. We would plan to salvage certain equipment and materials from the power installation before transferring the site for flood damage abatement purposes.

Based on the Chas. T. Main report, the protection of the properties in the Village of Three Rivers from a 100-year flood would be very much more expensive if the dam were retained, than would be the case if the dam were demolished.

In order that we may program our electric operating and maintenance schedules for that area, we will need fairly early advice as to the acceptability of our suggestion.

We are sending a copy of this letter to the Division Engineer, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army; to Mr. Stapleton, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, Hampden County; and to the Massachusetts Department of Public Works, with all of whom we have also been cooperating in the general efforts to find at least a partial solution to some of the perplexing flood problems.

Yours very truly,

Thomas J. Rouner
Vice President

CD Palmer
Dec. 27, 1957

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the dam on the Chicopee River of the New England Power Company situated just downstream of the Three Rivers section of the Town of Palmer. As you know, the business men and residents in the Three Rivers area are quite concerned over flood conditions that can and occassionally do occur in Three Rivers.

In the past the New England Power Company has cooperated with the citizens of Three Rivers and with your Board by removing flashboards from the dam to lower the water level upstream of the dam during time of high water conditions in the river. I know that the business men and residents of Three Rivers would be very happy if the New England Power Company would remove their flashboards from the dam during the Winter and Spring months of 1958. This would result in a lowering of the pond upstream of the dam and maintaining of a lower water level in time of heavy runoff.

We have made a review and study of the flashboard pins that are now in place on the dam. The pins are two-inch pipe and considering their breaking stress as between 60,000 psi and 70,000 psi, it would appear as if the flashboards will fail when from 4 ft. to 4½ ft. of water is flowing over the top of the flashboards.

The flashboards now in place are approximately 23-inches in height above the crest of the dam. Consequently, before the flashboards will fail there will be from 6 ft. to 6½ ft. of water above the permanent crest of the dam. This height of water does not endanger the safety of the dam. With this head on the structure the dam is not in any danger of failure. Consequently, according to my interpretation of the Law regarding dams, and the power of your Board regarding safety and control of dams, you cannot order the Power Company to remove the flashboards. Any potential damage that could be caused upstream as the result of flooding is a matter over which you apparently have no jurisdiction. However, the New England Power Company would probably agree to a request from your Board for removal of the flashboards or lowering of the flashboards from now thru the period of Spring runoff. Such removal or lowering of flashboards would undoubtedly be quite pleasing to the business men and residents of Three Rivers. It is recommended that you write to

the New England Power Company and request their cooperation, as was done previously, in the removal or lowering of the flash-boards.

If I can be of any direct assistance to you in this matter, please let me know.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, INC.
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DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

CD Palmer
Dec. 27, 1957

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the dam on the Chicopee River of the New England Power Company situated just downstream of the Three Rivers section of the Town of Palmer. As you know, the business men and residents in the Three Rivers area are quite concerned over flood conditions that can and occassionally do occur in Three Rivers.

In the past the New England Power Company has cooperated with the citizens of Three Rivers and with your Board by removing flash-boards from the dam to lower the water level upstream of the dam during time of high water conditions in the river. I know that the business men and residents of Three Rivers would be very happy if the New England Power Company would remove their flashboards from the dam during the Winter and Spring months of 1958. This would result in a lowering of the pond upstream of the dam and maintaining of a lower water level in time of heavy runoff.

We have made a review and study of the flashboard pins that are now in place on the dam. The pins are two-inch pipe and considering their breaking stress as between 60,000 psi and 70,000 psi, it would appear as if the flashboards will fail when from 4 ft. to 4½ ft. of water is flowing over the top of the flashboards.

The flashboards now in place are approximately 23-inches in height above the crest of the dam. Consequently, before the flashboards will fail there will be from 6 ft. to 6½ ft. of water above the permanent crest of the dam. This height of water does not endanger the safety of the dam. With this head on the structure the dam is not in any danger of failure. Consequently, according to my interpretation of the Law regarding dams, and the power of your Board regarding safety and control of dams, you cannot order the Power Company to remove the flashboards. Any potential damage that could be caused upstream as the result of flooding is a matter over which you apparently have no jurisdiction. However, the New England Power Company would probably agree to a request from your Board for removal of the flashboards or lowering of the flashboards from now thru the period of Spring runoff. Such removal or lowering of flashboards would undoubtedly be quite pleasing to the business men and residents of Three Rivers. It is recommended that you write to

the New England Power Company and request their cooperation, as was done previously, in the removal or lowering of the flash-boards.

If I can be of any direct assistance to you in this matter, please let me know.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

WATER SUPPLY
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PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

CD Palmer

Jan. 3, 1958

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find a suggested letter that could be sent to the New England Power Service Company, requesting their cooperation in easing the fears of the people of Three Rivers, regarding the possibility of high water during the coming winter and spring months by the removal of flashboards from the power dam on the Chicopee River. The contents of the letter are self explanatory.

If you concur in the contents, the letter could be signed and forwarded to the New England Power Service Company.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engr.

Enc.
GHM/cmb

Jan. 8, 1958

New England Power Service Co.,
441 Stuart Street
Boston 16, Mass.

Re: Three Rivers Dam
Chicopee River, Palmer

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the above subject power dam owned by your Company. As you know, this dam is located immediately downstream from the Three Rivers business section of the Town of Palmer. In the past, the citizens and business men of Three Rivers have experienced considerable loss as the result of flooding in time of heavy runoff. Naturally, these people are quite aware and apprehensive regarding rising water levels in the streams as they flow thru Three Rivers. Flashboards that are now in place on your dam are designed to fail when the water level over the top of the boards approaches 4 ft., more or less. Based upon calculations of our hydraulic engineer, it would be expected that the pins holding the boards would begin to bend prior to water reaching this height.

This height of water over the dam does not endanger the safety of the structure. However, the presence of flashboards on the dam during the winter and the coming spring months causes concern and worry to many of the citizens and business men in Three Rivers. If these flashboards could be removed from now until after the spring floods, this Board and the people of the Three Rivers section of Palmer would greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

If you wish to discuss the suggested removal of the flashboards for the next few months, kindly call or write this Board or the County Hydraulic Engineer.

Very truly yours
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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NEW ENGLAND POWER COMPANY

441 STUART STREET, BOSTON 16, MASS.

January 13, 1958

Hampden County Commissioners
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Dear Sirs:

We are in receipt of your letter of January 8, 1958 requesting removal of the flashboards from our Three Rivers Dam previous to the spring freshet period.

A similar request was made last winter by the Selectmen of Palmer as a result of which we did remove the boards on January 30, although it was realized, as was confirmed in your recent letter, that the flashboards are designed to yield automatically before flood flows reach substantial amounts, and therefore the boards would not affect flood heights in major freshets.

While awaiting the result of the Town of Palmer's flood study and their response to our offer to them of August 8, 1957, we are glad to further cooperate with all concerned by another early removal of our flashboards, even though this entails the loss of both pondage and some power generation during the time that the flashboards are off in advance of the spring freshet period.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Palmer Board of Selectmen for their information.

Yours very truly,

T. J. Rouner
Vice President

TJR/d
cc: Palmer Board of Selectmen

Copy of this letter sent to George H. McDonnell, County Hydraulic Engineer, on January 20, 1958.

Otis Company Dam



1926 Palmer

Located on Chicopee River. Also see: New England Power Company Dam aka Three Rivers Dam, Textile Printing Company Dam, Boston Duck Company Dam.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Otis Company Dam
Name	Otis Company
Water	Chicopee River

Ohio Company,
Ware, Mass.

you are notified that your dam, located on the Chicopee River or called in the Town of Palmer, etc.

"While the dam is stable, it has some erosion in places on its downstream side."

March 24,1926

Otis Company,
Ware, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 45 of Chapter 253 of the General Laws as amended by Chapter 324 of the Acts of 1923 and as further amended by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 1924 relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are notified that your dam, located on the Chicopee River so called in the Town of Palmer, has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following recommendations made by him;

"While the dam is stable, it has some erosion in places on its downstream side."

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman.

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Palmer Ice Company Dam



1950 Palmer

Location near ramp No 7 of Massachusetts Turnpike interchange near Shearer Street. Also see: Mongo Dam.

Abutters	Massachsetts Turnpike Authority
City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Palmer Ice Company Dam
Name	Holbrook, Donald
Name	Palmer Ice Company
Streets	Shearer Street
Water	Mount Dumplin Brook

September 27, 1950

Palmer Ice Company
Shearer Street
Palmer, Massachusetts

Attention: Mr. R. Mongo

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located on Mount Dumplin Brook, northwesterly of Shearer Street in Palmer has been recently inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

"The concrete spillway box is full of debris and the spillway pipe is partly blocked. They must be cleaned out. Gravel should be brought in to fill the sunken areas of the dam fill."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman

_____

_____

November 28, 1951

Palmer Ice Company
Shearer Street
Palmer, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located on Mount Dumplin Brook, northwesterly of Shearer Street in Palmer has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

> "Improvements have been made to the dam and spillway, however, fill should be placed on the portion of the dam westerly of the spillway, to return the earthfill section of the dam to its original shape and grade."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman

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Palmer

November 10, 1954

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Palmer Ice Co.
Shearer Street
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located off of Shearer Street on Mt. Dumplin Brook, has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

"This dam should be cleared of all trees, brush and undergrowth."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____Chairman

Oct. 17, 1956

Massachusetts Turnpike Authority
80 Boylston Street
Boston 16, Mass.

Att: Wm. F. Callahan, Chairman

Gentlemen:

Our County Hydraulic Engineer has pointed out to our Board that the construction of the access road in Palmer between Route 32 and the toll highway has caused certain changes in the dam that forms a small ice-pond adjacent to Shearer Street. Formerly the dam contained two spillways and discharged water through the structure in a tube as well as over the structure in a channel-type spillway chute. The new construction for the toll highway has resulted in a large earth fill being placed at the site of the old dam and the installation of a 5' diameter tube through the fill for the purpose of carrying the overflow from the pond under the highway construction that now becomes the dam. Entrance to the tube is obtained through a vertical shaft that has a grill or grid of steel bars lying flat on the surface of the structure. These bars are on 12" centers and apparently are for the purpose of keeping large debris from entering the inlet structure and the tube.

Our County Hydraulic Engineer points out the possibility of this grillwork becoming partially plugged by debris and thus reducing the ability of the spillway unit to pass flood flows. Should the grill become badly clogged with debris, it is possible that the water in the pond would rise to an elevation high enough to flood Shearer Street at a point adjacent to the bridge that carries the access road across Shearer Street. The overflowing water would probably follow the northerly gutter of Shearer Street under the bridge and discharge back to the brook valley just downstream of your highway fill. If such an overflow does occur, our engineer points out the possibility of damage to Shearer Street adjacent to the northerly abutment of the bridge carrying your access highway over Shearer Street.

Our engineer recommends that consideration be given to constructing the northerly portion of Shearer Street adjacent to your bridge abutment in such a manner that any overflow of water from the pond caused by plugging of the inlet structure could

safely pass under your bridge and along the northerly side of Shearer Street and then be discharged back to the stream just below the earth fill of your highway.

Your review of this condition and consideration of possible alterations to allow for this overflow in a safe manner is requested.

Our engineer would be pleased to meet with any of your representatives at the site to discuss this matter if you so desire.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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GHM/f

Oct. 31, 1956

Mr. Don Holbrook
424 Main Street
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Our County Hydraulic Engineer has recently inspected the site of your swimming pool dam located just northerly of Shearer St. in Palmer, and reports that the breach thru the dam caused by the flood of August, 1955, has not been cleaned or cleared and that conditions now existing are apparently the same ever since the date of the flood. It is essential that all debris, particularly wood, be cleared from the washout area. The breach thrcugh the dam should be shaped and cleaned in such a way as to allow for the unobstructed flow of water.

If you decide to repair the breach in the dam and to again pond water at this site, we call your attention to the fact that plans and specifications of any proposed construction and repairs must be filed with this Board prior to any construction work being done.

Any additional information desired on this matter will be furnished upon request.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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MASSACHUSETTS TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON 16, MASS.

WILLIAM F. CALLAHAN, CHAIRMAN
BENJAMIN H. GROUT, VICE-CHAIRMAN
JOHN R. KEWER, MEMBER

HUBBARD 2-9750

October 23, 1956

Board of County Commissioners
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

This will acknowledge your letter of October 17 concerning the ice pond adjacent to Shearer Street in Palmer.

This matter is being investigated and we will reply to you later.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM F. CALLAHAN
Chairman

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
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GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

C. D. Palmer
Oct. 15, 1956

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
31 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

A recent inspection of dams in the town of Palmer was made by the undersigned and it was noted that construction of the access roads to the toll highway in the vicinity of route #32 and Shearer Street were nearing completion. The access road between Route 32 and the toll highway crosses over Shearer Street and the brook course located to the south of Mt. Dumplin that parallels Shearer Street. The construction of this road has blocked the stream valley and has eliminated the old ice-pond dam of Mongo, formerly the dam of Dubois, and also Labossiere.

The original earthen dam was approximately 12' in height and 8' in width across the top. There were two spillways, one a 2' pipe spillway laid through the dam and a well containing stop planks, and the other a surface spillway ten feet in length built at the west end of the dam.

As now existing, the dam has been replaced by the large earth fill of the highway that passes over Shearer Street and the brook valley. The height of this earth fill varies, but in general is 30' or more in the vicinity of Shearer Street.

The new spillway constructed through the highway embankment in connection with the highway construction program is a 60" diameter tube which begins at a vertical concrete shaft in the pond and terminates on the downstream side of the highway embankment at a masonry endwall. The masonry shaft or inlet structure in the pond has a surface opening 5' in width and 10' in length. The elevation of the top of this structure controls the normal level of the water surface in the pond. Excess water passes into the inlet structure by crossing either the two sidewalls or the front wall of the structure and falling into the structure to pass under the highway embankment fill through the 5' diameter tube.

The opening of the inlet structure has been covered with a grillwork consisting of heavy steel bars laid across the opening on 12" centers. Thus, the 10' x 5' opening at the top of the inlet structure has been covered by this heavy grid work, with

openings of approximately one square foot. The purpose of this grid work or grill is to prevent the entrance of large debris into the inlet structure. In time of storm flow when the runoff from the valley is exceptionally heavy, it can be expected that a considerable quantity of debris will be carried by the flowing water and deposited on the front of the grill work at this inlet structure. If sufficient debris is deposited on the grill work, the capacity of this structure could be materially reduced so that the flood waters could be impounded to an elevation that might be high enough to overflow Shearer Street.

The proposed construction provides for a dike at an elevation of 406.0. This elevation appears to be about 2' more or less above the elevation of Shearer Street. If the water impounded by a restriction in the overflow structure exceeds elevation 406, this excess flow would then pass onto Shearer Street and would flow under the bridge carrying the new highway across Shearer Street to discharge back to the brook valley downstream of the new road construction. This overflowing water might be of sufficient quantity to wash out a portion of Shearer Street, particularly the right gutter area adjacent to the northerly abutment of the bridge carrying the access road of the new highway from route 32 to the toll highway itself.

In order to guarantee that Shearer Street will not be washed out underneath this bridge, at the time of extreme flood flows, should the grill of the inlet structure be partially plugged, it would seem wise to give consideration to the paving of an overflow channel along the northerly side of Shearer Street that would allow for the safe passage of excess flow under the new highway adjacent to the northerly abutment.

Since it is possible that damage to Shearer Street, a street belonging to the town of Palmer, could take place as described herein, it is recommended that this condition be brought to the attention of the toll authority and steps be taken to provide for the overflow of water from the pond should the grillwork of the inlet structure become plugged.

Respectfully submitted,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/f

Oct. 22, 1958

Mass. Turnpike Authority
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition, and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that the dam impounding water at property of Mongo, now or formerly the Palmer Ice Co., has been recently inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted in his report.

> "Conditions at this dam are still the same as previously reported. The dam itself is in a safe condition. However, the inlet to the overflow tube contains a grill that could be blocked by debris and in time of flood flows the water level in the pond might rise and overflow onto Shearer Street. The flood waters would then pass under the bridge carrying the access road to the Toll Highway and might do damage to the road pavement and shoulder areas. Recommendations were previously made to have a paved channel built adjacent to the roadway for the purpose of conveying overflowing water under the Highway bridge. No construction of this type has been done by the Toll Authority.
>
> It is recommended that a communication be sent to the Mass. Toll Authority again pointing out this condition and requesting information about any action planned by that Authority."

We are aware of the fact that the property involved may in part be owned by Mongo, in part by the Town and in part by the Mass. Turnpike Authority. Normally, conditions at dams requiring attention would be pointed out to the dam owner. In this case, changes at the dam resulted because of the construction of your access road as it crosses over Shearer Street in Palmer. In the past, it has been pointed out that there is a danger of the ice pond overflowing as the result of debris blocking

the inlet to the spillway tube. This overflow would pass out onto Shearer Street and along the south face of your northerly bridge abutment.

Do you contemplate constructing an emergency spillway at the site of this dam to protect Shearer Street from being washed out in time of flood flows should the inlet to the spillway tube become plugged.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

_____

_____

_____

MASSACHUSETTS TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON 16, MASS.

WILLIAM F. CALLAHAN, CHAIRMAN
BENJAMIN H. GROUT, VICE-CHAIRMAN
JOHN R. KEWER, MEMBER

HUBBARD 2-9750

November 12, 1958

Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

As a result of your letter of October 22, 1958, the location of the Palmer Ice Pond Dam was inspected by an engineer of the Authority. In his opinion there is no guarantee that any paved channel built adjacent to Shearer Street, as proposed by the County Engineer, would in the event of the water control structure being blocked during flood flow be adequate to carry the flow of water and consequently prevent erosion of the Shearer Street roadway and shoulders but that this would depend entirely upon the amount of water flow during a flood.

In view of this report, the Authority does not contemplate constructing an emergency spillway at the site of the Palmer Ice Pond Dam.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM F. CALLAHAN
CHAIRMAN

Copy of this letter mailed to George H. McDonnell, County Hydraulic Engineer, on December 2, 1958.

GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN
EDWARD J. BAYON

TIGHE & BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
INVESTIGATIONS, REPORTS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

CD Palmer

Dec. 4, 1958

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the communication from the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority dated November 12, 1958, pertaining to the dam at the Palmer Ice Pond adjacent to Shearer Street in Palmer.

Prior to the construction of the Turnpike there was an earthen dam with two spillways that formed the Palmer Ice Pond. With the construction of the Turnpike, a large embankment was constructed at the site of the dam for the purpose of carrying an access road between the toll booth and the highway itself. This high embankment resulted in the elimination of the old spillway facilities and the construction of new facilities in the form of a vertical concrete shaft with a heavy grill work constructed on top of the shaft. This spillway is satisfactory for general conditions provided no brush and debris becomes lodged on the spillway shaft grill work and thus plug in part, or in whole, the capacity of this spillway structure.

Under certain conditions, it is our opinion that water could flow out onto Shearer Street and wash out this roadway. The undersigned has felt that damage to Shearer Street could be held to a minimum if certain paving was installed on Shearer St. to care for a part or all of this potential overflow.

The Turnpike Authority writes that in the opinion of their Engineer, there is no guarantee that any paved channel built adjacent to Shearer St. would, in the event of the water control structure being blocked during flood flow, be adequate to carry the flow of water and consequently, prevent erosion of Shearer St. roadway and shoulders, but that this would depend entirely upon the amount of water flow during a flood. I concur in this statement but even though there is a chance that a washout might still occur even with a paved gutter, I can't see that that is reason enough to eliminate the installation of such a paving.

From a viewpoint of safety insofar as the release of stored water is concerned, the overflow of a flood onto Shearer St. would not suddenly release the stored up water of the pond. Consequently, the condition is not dangerous to persons and property downstream. In my opinion, it is dangerous, however, in that without a pavement, Shearer Street would become more seriously damaged with a lesser flow than would occur if a pavement could be installed.

I have checked my files to see if a decree had ever been issued by your Board in connection with the changes at this dam. However, I can find no definite approval by your Board of the alterations to this dam. The structure does come under your control since it impounds more than 1,000,000 gallons of water.

Perhaps the best way to handle this matter would be to discuss it with a representative of the Turnpike Authority the next time I happen to be in Boston or meet one of the Authority members. In that way, the situation can be thoroughly explained and a decision reached as to whether or not the emergency spillway paving will be installed.

Unless I hear differently from your Board, I will handle the matter in this manner.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/mb

CD Palmer
April 15, 1960

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden COunty Court House
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

About a year or more ago, our firm acted as engineering advisors and consultants to Donald Holbrook in his suit against the Mass. Turnpike Authority and a contractor in connection with damages done to his property in Palmer, just prior to and during the flood of August, 1955. With the conclusion of court action, and the termination of our engineering work on this matter, Mr. Holbrook requested that we continue as his engineer and prepare plans and specifications for the repairs of his property, particularly his swimming pool dam and his small filter supply storage pond. We have completed the plans and specifications and have sent them to Mr. Holbrook advising him that since each of the ponds holds more than 1 million gallons of water, the plans must be filed with your Board and a report prepared thereon.

Since Mr. Holbrook is one of our regular clients and the plans were prepared by engineering personnel in this office, it would seem advisable that the plans and specifications be sent to the County Hydraulic Engineer of Berkshire County for his review and recommendations to your Board.

If this procedure is agreeable to your Board, payment for his services should naturally be made from the account available for the services of the Hampden County Hydraulic Engineer.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engr.

GHM/cmb

GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN
EDWARD J. BAYON

TIGHE & BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
INVESTIGATIONS, REPORTS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

CD Palmer
April 15, 1960

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

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If this procedure is agreeable to your Board, payment for his services should naturally be made from the account available for the services of the Hampden County Hydraulic Engineer.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engr.

GHM/cmb

Palmer State Fish Hatchery Dams



1956 Palmer

Also see: Dam Report Section - Palmer.

Abutters	Massachusetts Turnpike Authority
City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Palmer State Fish Hatchery Dams
Name	Massachusetts Comm Fish Hatchery
Streets	Massachusetts Turnpike

CD-Palmer

August 2, 1956

Palmer State Fish Hatchery
Ware Road
Palmer, Massachusetts

Att. Mr. Griffin

Gentlemen:

This will confirm my conversation with you at the site of your upper dam, on Tuesday, July 31, 1956.

The repair work completed to date at your dam has increased the spillway capacity of the structure and thus has improved the safety of the dam. However, in order to guarantee that the abutment areas of the dam will not be overtopped in the future, should a design flood occur, it would be advisable to increase the overflow capacity of your dam to approximately 1200 cubic feet per second. This could be done by either lengthening the spillway or increasing the height so that water could safely flow over the spillway crest. A combination of these two could also produce the necessary added capacity.

Without making a detailed study of problems involved and cost of construction, it would seem that the most economical solution would be to raise the two abutments sufficiently to allow for an overflow of approximately 4.5 feet of water. If this is done, it will be necessary to also raise the curved spillway wall just downstream of the left end of the spillway.

Added spillway capacity could be obtained by cutting down the spillway crest but this would decrease the elevation of the pond and the quantity of water normally stored, unless a suitable flashboard arrangement was included on the crest that would fail during time of storm.

If we can be of any assistance to you regarding proposed improvements to this dam, please do not hesitate to call on the undersigned.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

Palmer Town Farm Dam



- Palmer

Also See Dam Report Section: Palmer.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Palmer Town Farm Dam

PALMER
D15025

PALMER TOWN FARM DAM
D15025

NO IMAGE ON FILE FOR THIS RECORD

(INFORMATION EXISTS ONLY ON A FILE CARD FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FORMER HAMPDEN COUNTY ENGINEER.)

Palmer Trucking Company Dam



1926 Palmer

Ice pond dam located on Mount Dumpling Brook.

Abutters	Palmer Trucking Company
City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Palmer Trucking Company Dam
Water	Mount Dumpling Brook

Page 54 of report

Palmer Trucking Company,
Palmer, Mass.

You are notified that your
ice pond dam, located on Mount Dumpling Brook
so called in the Town of Palmer, etc.

"A surface overflow of
sufficient capacity should be
built at the west end of the structure
which might be made in the form
of a swale. This would protect
the main embankment from any
danger of flood flows topping it."

Now, therefore, etc.

February 24, 1926

Palmer Trucking Company,
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen;

In accordance with the provisions of Section 45 of Chapter 253 of the General Laws as amended by Chapter 334 of the Acts of 1923 and as further amended by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 1924 relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are notified that your ice pond dam, located on Mount Dumpling Brook so called in the Town of Palmer, has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following recommendations made by him;

> "A surface overflow of sufficient capacity should be built at the west end of the structure which might be made in the form of a swale. This would protect the main embankment from any danger of flood flows topping it."

Now, therefore, in accordance with Section 46 of said Chapter 253, it is ordered that the above recommendations be complied with in a reasonable time.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman

_____

_____

November 17, 1926

Palmer Trucking Company,
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Inasmuch as your dam was inspected quite recently by our Engineer who found that no repairs had been made thereon, your attention is called to the notice sent to you on February 24, 1926 of which a copy is herewith enclosed.

In case you would like further information regarding the repairs required than that contained in notice, should you communicate or call upon our Engineer, James L. Tighe of the firm of Tighe & Bond, 189 High St., Holyoke, Mass., he will be glad to advise you.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman

_____

_____

C/N
Enc.

DEALER IN
SPRING WATER ICE
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

EXCAVATING AND GRADING
MOVERS OF HEAVY MACHINERY

PALMER TRUCKING COMPANY

(ESTABLISHED 1906)

FRED J. HOARLE, PROP.

PALMER, MASS.

LIGHT AND HEAVY TRUCKING, FURNITURE AND PIANO MOVING
LOCAL AND LONG DISTANCE

TELEPHONE
OFFICE 81-W
RESIDENCE 81-Y

November 19th. 1926.

County Commissioners:-

Mr. Geo. S. Cook,
Mr. John Hall,
Mr. Chas. N. Bray,

Gentlemen:- Please be advised that I had completed in October a cement swail, 10 feet long and 2 feet deep, with cement bed and cement side walls 6 inches thick, thru the gravel dam on my Ice pond located on Mount Dumpling Brook in the town of Palmer.

This would have been completed much sooner but for the fact, In February when I received your notice I had opened the gates of my dam and the pond has been dry all summer, which is my usual custom, However your orders have been complied with and I trust they meet your every Requirement.

Very Truly Yours,
Palmer Trucking Company
Fred J. Hoarle

Palmer Water Works Dams aka Palmer Fire District No 1 - Upper & Lower - Dams



1933 Palmer

Lower Dam (intake) located on Graves Brook, at the source of water supply situated easterly of Breckenridge Street. See also: County Highways (Palmer) - "Palmer Water Company..." - ch03085 & ch03108. See also: County Roads Plan #20 (1956) "Raise Lower Reservoir Dam".

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Palmer Water Works Dams
Dam	Palmer Fire District No 1 - Upper & Lower - Dams
Name	Palmer Town Water Commissioners
Streets	Breckenridge Street
Water	Graves Brook

PALMER FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
PALMER, MASS.
WATER DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF

June 13, 1933

Office of the County Commissioners
Springfield, Mass.

Attention Mr. Thomas J. Costello, Chairman

Gentlemen:

Your letter of May 3 has been received and contents noted. Action was taken at our last Commissioners' meeting as to the dam located on Graves Brook and work on this dam has been started.

Yours very truly,

HMH/KGI

Board of Water Commissioners

May 3, 1933.

Water Department,
Palmer Fire Dist. No. 1.,
356 Main Street,
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 45 of Chapter 253 of the General Laws as amended by Chapter 334 of the Acts of 1923 and as further amended by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 1924 relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are notified that your lower or intake dam, located on Graves Brook so called, in the Town of Palmer, has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him;

"The downstream end of the concrete overflow channel is not in very good condition. For a length of some fifty feet the floor is considerably rutted and eroded, and the walls are breaking up and falling in. It is recommended that this part of the dam be repaired and put in shape."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman;

_____

_____

September 2, 1942

The Board of Selectmen
Town of Palmer
412 Main Street
Palmer, Mass.

Geneltmen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hempden County, you are hereby notified that your town farm dam on a tributary of Gates Brook in Palmer has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

"The floor and walls of the overflow of this dam are broken up and in need of repairs, providing the structure is to be kept in service."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman

_____

_____

November 3, 1954

Office of Palmer Fire District No. 1
Board of Water Commissioners
Palmer, Mass

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your lower dam located at your source of water supply situated easterly of Breckenridge Street has been recently inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

> "The concrete spillway downstream of the crest should be repaired where the concrete is cracked, worn or broken. Repairs made now will prevent the need for more serious and costly repairs at a later date."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____ Chairman

_____

_____

July 6, 1955

Office of Palmer Fire District No. 1
Board of Water Commissioners
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2 53, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam known as "Lower Dam" has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

"The spillway chute is in need of repairs. Broken and cracked concrete on the bottom and the sides of the spillway chute downstream of the flashboards should be repaired so that in case of heavy run-off there will be no danger of water getting underneath and behind the concrete and causing undermining."

Will you kindly take steps to correct this situation by August 30th, 1955. Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request. Our County Hydraulic Engineer will reinspect the dam following the completion of the repair work.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman

_____

_____

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
189 HIGH STREET
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

C.D.-Palmer

March 16, 1956

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

On March 8, 1956, I inspected the dams of Fire District No. 1 in the Town of Palmer and found that both dams are in good condition and in a satisfactory state of maintenance.

The lower dam, damaged in the flood of August, 1955, has been completely repaired under private contract by the Corps of Engineers of the U. S. Army. The repaired work was done in a workman like manner and only loaming and seeding remains to be finished this spring.

The dam was washed through in the flood because the capacity of the spillway is too small. The spillway contains flashboards of a permanent nature that have raised the crest of the overflow.

It is recommended that the Fire District be directed to provide adequate spillway capacity at the lower dam by either constructing a second spillway of an approved design or by providing capacity through the existing spillway. This work should be accomplished in 1956.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/mdb

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

C. D. Palmer
Sept. 27, 1956

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
31 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed for your information and file purposes, please find a copy of a communication sent to the superintendent of the Water Department in Palmer at Fire District #1, in connection with a sketch plan and specification sent to me for review. The plan and specification have to do with the proposed raising of the lower dam, possibly 2 feet. The enclosed letter is self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/f

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

CD-Palmer

Sept. 12, 1956

The Hon. the County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter received from the Water Department of Fire District No. 1 of Palmer together with a copy of our letter on the matter involved. These communications are self explanatory.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

March 21, 1956

Fire District No. 1
Town of Palmer
Palmer, Massachusetts

Attention Board of Water Commissioners

Gentlemen:

In accordance with Chapter 253 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, our engineer has inspected your dams at your source of water supply and reports to us that the lower dam, damaged in the flood of August, 1955, has been repaired and that only loaming and seeding of the repaired area remains to be accomplished.

His report states that additional spillway capacity should be provided by either constructing a new spillway to supplement the existing spillway or altering the present spillway to provide adequate overflow capacity in that one structure.

This Board concurs in the recommendation of our engineer and requests that steps be taken to provide the extra spillway capacity to protect your dam from future damage or failure.

Any additional information desired will be furnished upon request. Kindly notify this Board of what action will be taken on this matter.

Very truly yours,

Board of County Commissioners

_____

_____

_____

CHN/mdb

PALMER FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

PALMER, MASS.

WATER DEPARTMENT

March 26, 1956.

Board of County Commissioners
County of Hampden
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass. Attention Thos.F. Sullivan, Chairman

Gentlemen:

In reply to your letter of the 21st concerning our spillway on the lower dam. It is the intention of the Department to raise the dam a sufficient height to allow for greater overflow capacity in the present spillway.

We shall do this work this summer and will send you information later on as to the exact nature of the project.

Very truly yours

Palmer Fire District No. 1
WATER DEPARTMENT

Mr. Donahue, Clerk for Water Commissioners, Palmer, telephoned Tuesday, July 12, 1955, stating that they have received the County Comms' letter dated July 6, 1955 relative to the "Lower Dam" of the Palmer Board of Water Commissioner, Office of Palmer Fire District No. 1 - requesting that someone come out there to see the Water Comms and explain the matter to them. Mr. Donahue said for the County Engineer to see Mr. Ammann.

Tel.Palmer 387

COPY

COPY

PALMER FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

Palmer, Mass.

WATER DEPARTMENT. Sept. 10, 1956

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer
Bowers & Pequot Streets
Holyoke, Mass.

Dear Sir:

This Department has decided to take one of your suggestions and raise our dam two feet, but not the water level, so as to increase our spillway capacity.

We will strip off all grass, loam and gravel from the top of the dam, dig a key trench and then fill and roll in six inch layers. The material to be used is the same as that used by the Army Engineers in filling the breach in the dam.

The face of each slope will be of a porous material for proper drainage. The upstream slope to be lined with stone to prevent erosion.

Very truly yours

Palmer Fire District No.1
Water Department

By william Ammam
Superintendent

WA/KD

CD Palmer

Sept. 12, 1956

Palmer Fire District No. 1
Water Department
Palmer, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

In reference to your letter of Sept.10,1956, regarding the increase in height of your dam, I am pleased to note that you are taking steps to increase the spillway capacity of your structure. The work that you plan to do sounds reasonable and should provide additional safety to your structure. In order that you may be properly protected it would be well to prepare a simple sketch drawing and a short specification of the work to be done and to file this with the County. In this way you will have complied with the Requirements of the Commonwealth, to record changes in dams by filing Plans of the changes in the County Hall of Records.

I will be pleased to meet with you at your convenience, in Palmer, to discuss this matter and to assist you in any way possible.

Will you kindly let me know when you plan to do the construction work at your dam, in order that I may inspect it and advise you regarding the work as it progresses?

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

C.D. Palmer
Sept. 27, 1956

Palmer Fire District #1
Water Department
Palmer, Mass.

Att: William Ammann, Supt.

Dear Sir:

We are returning to you under separate cover the sketch plan of the cross section of the proposed improvements to the lower reservoir dam of your Water Department, together with the typewritten specifications.

The work proposed seems satisfactory as shown upon the drawing. It would be desirable to show the slope of the face of the dam on the pond side.

A plan view of the proposed construction should be shown that would indicate the extent of the longitudinal construction. That is, the extent of construction along the length of the dam and into the abutment hills at both ends of the dam. The location of the existing spillway and the manner in which you propose to raise the spillway sidewalls should also be shown on the plan and on a typical cross section through the spillway.

While raising the dam and increasing the height of the spillway sidewalls, you should indicate that the floor of the spillway will be repaired at the cracked and broken locations.

In preparing your plans for submission to the County, they should be prepared on tracing paper and then blueprints of the plans submitted to the County.

On the cross section drawing that has been returned to you, it would be well to denote that the line of contact between the existing earth material and the new fill will not be a smooth line as shown on the cross section, but rather a rough line that will tend to properly blend the new earth into the existing earth.

In the specifications it would be well to indicate that the material to be placed in the trench key will be of a generally

impervious nature. The material to be placed on the surface of the dam in the central section would be of a general impervious nature but the very top portion would probably be a gravel or sand base upon which you would place your finished layer of loam.

When you have prepared the plans showing the cross section altered as recommended and also showing the plan of the construction together with the treatment at the spillway walls, blueprints of these plans together with a typewritten copy of the specifications should be filed with the County Commissioners. A petition of request should be made out to the County Commissioners, requesting their permission to raise your lower dam in accordance with the plan and specifications submitted. In submitting the petition, together with the plan and specifications, a check for $5.00 should be included, made out to Hampden County. This is a filing fee to cover the cost of filing your plans and specifications in the Hall of Records.

If you have any questions on the matter, or wish to discuss it with me, kindly call or, if you wish, I will be glad to stop at your office in Palmer to discuss the proposed work with you.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE H. McDONNELL
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/f

Oct. 22, 1958

Board of Water Commissioners
Fire District No. 1
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition, and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your Lower Dam located at your source of supply and now being improved has been recently inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

> "The work of raising the earth embankment at this dam has not been completed. The embankment has been shaped and raised across its length except for immediately adjacent to the spillway chute. This remaining work should be completed prior to freezing winter weather. The side walls of the spillway chute should be properly raised and needed maintenance and repairs of the spillway chute itself should be included in the work. All brush and small tree growth should be cut from the spillway and on the dam embankment."

Any further information desired in connection with this matter will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Board of County Commissioners
County of Hampden
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

We have your letter of October 21st, 1959, regarding inspection of our two dams by your Engineer.

Please be advised that the repairs recommended by him will be made as soon as conditions warrant.

Very truly yours,

Palmer Fire District No. 1
WATER DEPARTMENT

William Ammann

William Ammann,
Superintendent.

copy of this letter sent
to G.H.McDonnell, Cty Hydraulic
Engr., on Nov. 10, 1959.

Oct. 21, 1959

Board of Water Commissioners
Fire District No. 1
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your two dams located at your surface source of supply have been recently inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

"Upper Dam The embankment at this dam is in good condition. The spillway is satisfactory. However, cracks in the general area immediately downstream of the flashboards should be repaired. Flashboards were in place on the crest of the spillway at the time of the last inspection.

Lower Dam The spillway chute has been improved. However, the righthand wall below the flashboard location should be constructed to a higher grade, to prevent extreme flows from jumping the wall and washing out the earth behind and under the chute. Such a washout, if it became large enough, might endanger the embankment of the dam. The walls of the spillway and the earth embankment in the vicinity of the crest of the spillway should be raised and all work completed on the project as soon as possible."

If you have any further question on this, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

_____

_____

Acting Commissioner _____

Sept. 28, 1960

Board of Water Commissioners
Fire District No. 1
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your two dams, located at your surface source of supply have been recently inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

"Upper Dam The embankment of this dam is in good condition. The spillway chute is in need of repairs near the lower end. Cracks on the floor of the chute, particularly near the stop logs, should be repaired.

Lower Dam The spillway walls should be raised to the height of the new embankment fill at the top of the dam, in the location of the old spillway bridge. The side walls of the spillway chute, particularly at the right wall, at the spillway bend, should be raised to properly contain peak rates of flow and prevent water from jumping the spillway and causing a washout of adjacent soil. When last inspected, the pond was drawn to a low level and the reservoir was not in active use."

If you have any further question on this, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

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Freeman Dam



1949 Palmer

Proposed intestest in dam.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Freeman Dam
Name	Freeman, R S

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

County of Hampden

Springfield, Mass.

Office of the
County Commissioners
52 State Street

William F. Stapleton
Chairman
Ralph P. Walsh
Lloyd W. Fradet

June 12, 1968

Board of Water Commissioners
Fire District No. 1
Main Street
Palmer, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your two dams, located at your surface source of supply have been recently inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

"Upper Dam

The embankment of this dam was found to be o.k. The toe area is draining and seeping a fairly large amount of water. The lower reservoir which normally backs up and floods the toe of the upper reservoir is empty and will probably remain empty for some time. As a result of the exposure of the toe of the upper dam, the seepage is now evident. The seepage water is clear and there is no evidence of earth movement. However, Water Department personnel should observe the toe area from time to time to be certain that the seepage rate does not increase to a point wherein earth begins to move.

New flashboards have been placed in the spillway to the normal level. Water in storage was down about 6" below the elevation of the upper stoplog.

The spillway chute should be repaired wherever the wall and the floor concrete is breaking up.

The small gatehouse at the toe of the dam is quite rotten and is still leaning. This condition is not dangerous to the safety of the dam.

Lower Dam

The reservoir formed by this dam is empty and has been empty for some time. The Superintendent of the Water Department has informed the undersigned that the reservoir has been de-activated because of iron problems in the water. If this reservoir is not to be used then the flashboard in the spillway should be taken out and the small dirt dam removed from the crest of the spillway. The concrete side walls of the spillway should be raised to the level of the top of the dam embankment and the embankment should be extended horizontally to the raised walls. This recommendation has been made in the past to improve the safety of the dam in time of flood flow, but the Water Department has not taken any action as yet in connection therewith.

The spillway chute should have walls and floor repaired where work of this nature is necessary."

If you have any further question on this matter, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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GEORGE H. McDONNELL
EDWARD W. SHERIDAN
EDWARD J. BAYON

TIGHE & BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
INVESTIGATIONS, REPORTS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

CD Palmer
March 17, 1969

Board of Water Commissioners
Palmer Fire District No. 1
Palmer, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to your dams in the Town of Palmer, and the fact that there now exists a heavy snow cover throughout Western Massachusetts. The water content of this snow cover, coupled with a warm spring rain could result in extremely heavy runoff conditions. Consequently, the Commissioners of Hampden County have directed that I advise you to be sure that the spillway facilities at your dams are clear of any obstruction and that you take all precautions necessary to protect your dams as well as persons and property downstream.

All flashboards and stoplogs should be removed from the spillway on each of your two dams so as to provide the maximum possible capacity for passing flood flows. Flashboards and stoplogs should not be replaced until after the heavy spring runoff has passed.

If you have any question in connection with this matter, the undersigned can be reached at the above address and telephone number.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/amd

October 24, 1949
586 N. Main St.
Palmer, Mass.

Hampden County Commissioners
Hall of Records Bldg.
Elm St.
Springfield, Mass.

Dear Sir:

The State Dept. of Public Works advises me to contact you for information regarding the regulations governing the construction of dams on private property.

The proposed dam to be constructed is on private property as is the area to be flooded, also the immediate bordering property. The dam is to be privately maintained for private use. It is desired to have a minimum of outside control.

The specific information I am interested in, is as follows, amount of area that may be flooded, regulations regarding the damming of streams, regulations the construction of spillways, if required. and may a small stream be totally blocked for a short period of time? Any other information you can give me will be greatly appreciated.

If this information can be sent me as soon as possible, that also would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely

R. S. Freeman

R. S. Freeman

Kindly return this letter to State Commissioner

JAMES L. TIGHE
PHILIP E. BOND
TELEPHONE
HOLYOKE 5525

TIGHE & BOND
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
189 HIGH STREET
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
WATER POWER
DAMS

November 1, 1949

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Springfield 3, Mass.

Attn: Thomas F. Sullivan, Chm.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with your request we are returning the enclosed letter written by R. S. Freeman. The undersigned attempted to contact Mr. Freeman both by phone and through a visit to his home but was not successful. A message was left with his family on Sunday October 30, 1949 telling him to call this office but up to the present time I have not heard from him. A letter in answer to his questions will be sent to him tomorrow.

Very truly yours

TIGHE AND BOND

By G. H. McDonnell

G. H. McDonnell for
D. Bond, County Hyd. Eng'r

COPY

TIGHE & BOND

November 2, 1949

R. S. Freeman
856 N. Main Street
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of October 24, 1949, to the Commissioners of Hampden County is acknowledged. The following is the information requested:

a. "Amount of area that may be flooded"? You may flood any area you desire, provided you do not flood or damage property you do not own. Flooding or damaging property you do not own is a legal question between yourself and the property owner whose land is flooded or damaged.

b. "Regulations regarding the damming of streams"? If your dam is on a stream where the drainage area above the dam is one square mile or more, or, if the dam is ten feet high or higher, or, if the quantity of water impounded is one million gallons or more, then the dam comes under the jurisdiction of the County Commissioners. If your dam, pond and the drainage area are all smaller than the above, you do not have to apply for a permit to build the dam.

c. "Regulations on the construction of spillway"? If your dam comes under the jurisdiction of the County Commissioners, the spillway must be designed and built as approved by the County Hydraulic Engineer. This will require a consultation between the undersigned and yourself.

d. "May a small stream be totally blocked for a short period of time"? This depends on the total length of time involved; the rights of downstream water users, nuisance conditions which might be caused and so forth.

The undersigned went to Palmer on Sunday October 30, 1949, but you were not at your home and a message was left requesting you to call me at your convenience. If you will let me know when and where I can meet you, I will be glad to discuss with you the subject of regulations pertaining to dams.

Very truly yours,

Tighe & Bond

By _____
G. H. McDonnell - for D. Bond
County Hydraulic Engineer

JAMES L. TIGHE
PHILIP E. BOND
TELEPHONE
HOLYOKE 5525

TIGHE & BOND
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
189 HIGH STREET
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
WATER POWER
DAMS

November 2, 1949

The Hon. The Board of County Comm'rs.
Hampden County Court House
Springfield, Massachusetts

Attn: Thomas F. Sullivan, Chm.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent to R. S. Freeman, this date, in answer to his letter written to your Board and dated October 24, 1949.

Very truly yours,

Tighe & Bond

By G. H. McDonnell - for
D. Bond, County Hyd. Eng'r.

Sasur Dam



1959 Palmer

Located off Springfield Street.

Abutters	Palmer Town Highway
City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Sasur Dam
Name	Sasur, J L
Streets	Springfield Street

Oct. 21, 1959

Mr. J. L. Sasur
149 Springfield St.
Three Rivers, Palmer
Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located off of Springfield Street has been recently inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

> "The spillway stop logs are in place and the pond was full at the time of the last inspection on Oct. 7, 1959. The entrance to the spillway is fairly well blocked with a large log that has fallen into the masonry inlet well. This log reduces the capacity of the spillway tube and could result in the topping of the road if a heavy runoff should occur that would exceed the capacity of the tube as now partly blocked by the log. The Owner of the dam should be notified to remove the log immediately."

In order to protect the roadway it is necessary that the log and other debris, if any, be removed from the overflow structure at your pond. This overflow structure also acts as the inlet to the highway culvert.

If you have any further question on this, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Acting
Commissioner _____

Self-Locking Carton Company Dams - Upper & Lower fka Colgan-Sherman Dams



- **Palmer**

Also see: Dam Report Section - Palmer, and Diamond Match Company Dams.

	Self-Locking Carton Company Dams
City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Colgan-Sherman Dams
Dam	Self-Locking Carton Company Dams - Upper & Lower

PALMER
D15030

SELF-LOCKING CARTON COMPANY DAMS – UPPER & LOWER – FKA COLGAN-SHERMAN LOWER DAM

D15030

NO IMAGE ON FILE FOR THIS RECORD

(INFORMATION EXISTS ONLY ON A FILE CARD FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FORMER HAMPDEN COUNTY ENGINEER.)

Swift & Company Dam



1954 Palmer

Dam is located on Graves Brook in Palmer easterly of Breckenridge Street and about one-half mile downstream from Palmer Water Works- Fire District No 1.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Swift & Company Dam
Name	Swift & Company
Streets	Breckenridge Street
Water	Graves Brook

Dam is on Graves Brook in Palmer easterly of Breckenridge Street and about one-half mile downstream from Palmer Water Works - Fire District No. 1.

October 13, 1954. 7

Swift & Co.
Poultry Plant
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located just above your poultry plant in Palmer has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

"These dams are small structures located just above the Swift & Co. plant easterly of Breckenridge Street. The storage capacity of the ponds and the height of the dams is so small that no material damage would result from failure or over-topping of these dams. At the present time water flows from the upper pond to the lower pond and thence from the lower pond into a culvert pipe. Should debris block the culvert pipe, it is possible that the lower of the two dams might overflow in time of high storm and run-off. The amount of damage that would be done would in all probability be negligible. However, if these dams are not to be used for the purpose of storing water now or in the future, it might be advisable to maintain them free from debris and to even eliminate them if desired, so that the possibility of blocking the culvert drain will be reduced to a minimum."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman

_____

_____

Textile Printing Company Dams



1952 Palmer

Lower dam located on Swift River in Bondsville. Also see: Otis Company Dam, New England Power Company Dam, Otis Company Dam.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Textile Printing Company Dams
Name	Bondsville Realty
Name	Endelson, Jack
Name	Textile Printing Company
Water	Swift River

December 31, 1952

Textile Printing Company
Bondsville, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your lower dam on Swift River in Bondsville has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

"There is a leakage under the capstones of the gate structure at the right abutment."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman

_____

_____

Textile Printing Co. Lower Dam,
Palmer

Otis Dam aka Boston Duck Company Dam aka Textile Printing Company Dam



1937 Palmer

Dam located on the Swift & Chicopee Rivers. *See* Also: Textile Printing Company Dam, New England Power Company Dam, Three Rivers Dam, Boston Duck Company Dam. *See* also: County Highways (Palmer) "Land Survey for Dam on Chicopee River - Otis Company - Three Rivers" - ch03037.

Abutters	Horgan
Abutters	Keith & Horgan Pharmacy
City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Boston Duck Company Dam
Dam	Otis Company Dam
Dam	Textile Printing Company Dam
Name	Boston Duck Company
Name	Bondsville Realty
Name	Textile Printing Company
Water	Swift River
Water	Chicopee River

November 3, 1937

Boston Duck Company
Bondsville, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby notified that your upper dam on the Swift River in Palmer has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him;

> "While the dam proper appears to be in good condition there are some minor repairs needed on the downstream end of the westerly abutment wall, and it is recommended that this matter be drawn to the attention of the owner."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman

_____

_____

May 8, 1940

Mr. James L. Tighe,
189 High Street,
Holyoke, Mass.

Dear Mr. Tighe:

Enclosed find copy of letter which the County Commissioners received today.

Will you kindly give this your attention.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman.

CWB/N

May 15, 1940

Mr. D. J. Horgan,
3 Main Street,
Three Rivers, Palmer,
Mass.

Dear Mr. Horgan:

Upon receipt of your letter of May 7, 1940 in regard to the Boston Duck Company of Bondsville, owners of the power house and dam at Three Rivers, erecting flashboards on the dam, the County Commissioners referred this matter to our Consulting Hydraulic Engineer, Mr. James L. Tighe of Holyoke, and he is to report more in detail in regard to the flashboards for our next meeting on Wednesday, May 22nd.

Very truly yours,
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman.

CWB/N

Ask Mr. Tighe to come in Wed.- 5/29/40

MEMBER
AM. SOC. C. E.
INST. C. E. GREAT BRITAIN
ENG. INST. OF CANADA

JAMES L. TIGHE

CONSULTING ENGINEER
CALEDONIAN BUILDING, 189 HIGH STREET
HOLYOKE, MASS.
TELEPHONE 5525
MEMBER AM. INST. OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.

MEMBER
BOSTON SOC. C. E.
ENG. SOC. WEST. MASS.
AM. & N. E. W. W. ASSOC'S

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
ANALYSIS OF WATER

WATER POWER INVESTIGATIONS
AND DEVELOPMENT
DAMS AND POWER INSTALLATIONS
ESTIMATES AND APPRAISALS

May 14, 1940

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County, Court House
Springfield, Mass.

Charles W. Bray, Chairman,

Dear Sir:

I beg to report that on May 11th I visited the Otis dam, across the Chicopee River, at a point a short distance downstream from the village of Three Rivers in the town of Palmer, and found flashboards on the dam.

These flashboards were put in place on May 2nd last, and as heavy rains followed soon after, it was feared by some of the residents of the village, that the higher level of the river pond, caused by the flashboards, might back water into some of the cellars or basements in the village.

Flashboards have been in common use on almost all power dams, especially in times of low water and, in regard to the dam under consideration, flashboards have been used thereon, year after year, since it was constructed. In some of these years the flashboards were 2 1/2 feet in height, instead of 2 feet, which they are at present.

Since about 29% of the flow of the river at the Otis dam will be impounded henceforth in the Quabbin reservoir completed in 1939, this should have a considerable modifying effect on the height of flood flows over the Otis dam in the future.

In regard to the authority of the County in ordering flashboards removed from a dam, where such would endanger its safety, there can be no question. Where flashboards, however, do not endanger the safety of the dam but cause damage to abutting properties through back water, resulting from the higher level of the pondage, it might be advisable to know, from the legal standpoint, if the authority of the County would still be the same, as where the flashboards endanged the safety of the dam.

Respectfully submitted,

James L. Tighe

KEITH & HORGAN PHARMACY
3 Main Street - Three Rivers
Massachusetts

D. J. Horgan, Ph. G.
Prop.

May 7, 1940

Board of Commissioners of Hampden County
Springfield, Mass.

Dear sirs:

The Boston Duck Company of Bondsville, Massachusetts who owns the Power House and the Dam at Three Rivers, last week erected Flash boards on the dam and due to the heavy rainfall later in the week caused the water to rise to such a degree as to be dangerously near entering the basement of our store.

Having been flooded out twice in the last few years resulting in considerable damage to our merchandise in the basement, naturally we are fearful every time the water reaches a high level.

I understand that your Commission has the power to remove these Flash Boards. For safety in case of unexpected and heavy rains I would appreciate it greatly if your Commission would look into this matter and make some arrangement whereby these Flash Boards can be removed.

Very truly yours,

D. J. Horgan

DJH/h

Boston Duck Co. August 27, 1941

Bondsville, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby notified that your upper dam on Swift River in Palmer has been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

"This dam is in fair condition but the attention of the Boston Duck Company should be drawn to the downstream corner of the west abutment of the structure, which needs some repairs."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman

_____

_____

October 3, 1945

Textile Printing Co.

Bondsville, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your upper dam on the Swift River in Palmer has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him;

> "At the down stream end of the northern abutment of this stone masonry structure a couple or so of the large facing stones have fallen into the streambed. Those stones should be re-set in place or the space they occupied filled with concrete."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

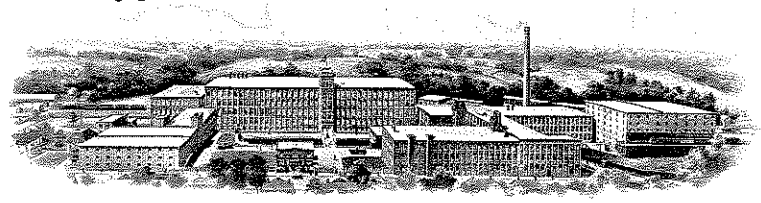
By _____
Chairman

_____

_____

Textile Printing Company
OF WARREN INC.

WEST WARREN, MASS.
PHONE WARREN 195
BONDSVILLE, MASS.
PHONE PALMER 22
EMPIRE STATE BUILDING
NEW YORK 1, N.Y.
PHONE WISCONSIN 7-8662



PLEASE ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO

Bondsville, Mass.
October 9th, 1945

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Hampden
Office of the County Commissioners
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Referring to your letter of October 3rd, we wish to advise that the repairs to our upper dam as recommended by your engineer have been completed.

Very truly yours,

TEXTILE PRINTING COMPANY

By Edward Endelson
Edward Endelson

EE:MJC

Copy of this letter sent to Mr. Tighe on October 11, 1945 in accordance with County Commissioners' instructions on the 10th.

Thorndike Fire & Water District Dams



1951 Palmer

Located easterly of Flynt Street and upstream of the old Town Farm Dam.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Town Farm Dam (old)
Dam	Thorndike Fire & Water District Dams
Name	Palmer Town Water Commissioners -Thorndike Fire & Water District
Streets	Flynt Street

November 28, 1951

Board of Water Commissioners
Thorndike Water Supply District
Palmer, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dams located easterly of Flynt Street and upstream from the old Town farm dam have been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

"Both dams are somewhat delapidated and the lower dam is apparently leaking under the spillway near the drawoff area."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman

_____

_____

Thorndike Water Supply Dist.
Palmer

November 10, 1954

Thorndike Fire & Water District
Office of the Commissioners
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your lower dam located at your source of water supply has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

> "There is a soft spot and a potential leak through the dam at a point situated a few feet from the left end of the dam. This soft spot should be excavated and cleaned of all loose material and vegetation. The cavity should then be packed and rammed with impervious earth. Loam and seed should then be placed over the small surface area of the repair. The soft spot in the dam does not present a dangerous condition to the lives and safety of persons and property downstream. However, if the dam is to be maintained in good condition, it would be advisable for the owners to follow the recommendation herein."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____Chairman

_____

_____

November 10, 1954

Thorndike Fire & Water District
Office of the Commissioners
Palmer, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your lower dam located at your source of water supply has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

> "There is a soft spot and a potential leak through the dam at a point situated a few feet from the left end of the dam. This soft spot should be excavated and cleaned of all loose material and vegetation. The cavity should then be packed and rammed with impervious earth. Loam and seed should then be placed over the small surface area of the repair. The soft spot in the dam does not present a dangerous condition to the lives and safety of persons and property downstream. However, if the dam is to be maintained in good condition, it would be advisable for the owners to follow the recommendation herein."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____Chairman

_____

_____

GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN
RICHARD J. DAYON

TIGHE & BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
INVESTIGATIONS, REPORTS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991

CD Palmer
March 17, 1969

Board of Water Commissioners
Thorndike Fire District
Thorndike, Palmer, Massachusetts 01079

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to your dams in the Town of Palmer, and the fact that there now exists a heavy snow cover throughout Western Massachusetts. The water content of this snow cover, coupled with a warm spring rain could result in extremely heavy runoff conditions. Consequently, the Commissioners of Hampden County have directed that I advise you to be sure that the spillway facilities at your dams are clear of any obstruction and that you take all precautions necessary to protect your dams as well as persons and property downstream.

If you have any question in connection with this matter, the undersigned can be reached at the above address and telephone number.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/amd

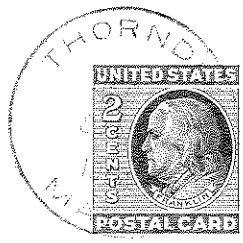
Three Rivers Dam fka Boston Duck Company Dam aka Otis Company Dam



1940 Palmer

Once known as Otis Dam and also the Boston Duck Company Dam now known as Three Rivers Dam - located across the Chicopee River, at a point a short distance downstream from the village of Three Rivers. See also Otis Company Dam, Textile Printing Company Dam, New England Power Company Dam. See also: County Highways (Palmer) - "New Dam for Palmer Mills Three Rivers..." - ch05082.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Otis Company Dam
Dam	Boston Duck Company Dam
Dam	Three Rivers Dam
Water	Chicopee River



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. Thomas F. Sullivan, Chairman
Officer of County Commissioners
37 Elm St.
Springfield, Mass.

Dear Sirs

The Thorndike Water Board will meet Dec. 16, 1954. at 7:30 P.M.

The Water Board wants to know if you will come to the meeting to discuss your letter of Nov. 10, 1954.

They will meet in St. Joseph's Hall 18 Commercial St. Thorndike.

Very truly yours,

L. Edna Rekar, clerk.

COPY

May 14, 1940

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Springfield, Mass.

Charles W. Bray, Chairman,

Dear Sir:

I beg to report that on May 11th I visisted the Otis dam, across the Chicopee River, at a point a short distance downstream from the village of Three Rivers in the Town of Palmer, and found flashboards on the dam.

These flashboards were put in place on May 2nd last, and as heavy rains followed soon after, it was feared by some of the residents of the village, that the higher level of the river pond caused by the flashboards, might back water into some of the cellars or basements in the village.

Flashboards have been in common use on almost all power dams, especially in times of low water and, in regard to the dam under consideration, flashboards have been used thereon year after year since it was constructed. In some of these years the flashboards were 2½ feet in height, instead of 2 feet, which they are at present.

Since about 29% of the flow of the river at the Otis dam will be impounded henceforth in the Quabbin Reservoir completed in 1939, this should have a considerable modifying effect on the height of flood flows over the Otis dam in the future.

In regard to the authority of the County in ordering flashboards removed from a dam, where such would endanger its safety, there can be no question. Where flashboards, however, do not endanger the safety of the dam but cause damage to abutting properties thru back water, resulting from the higher level of the pondage, it might be advisable to know from the legal standpoint if the authority of the County would still be the same, as where the flashboards endangered the safety of the dam.

Respectfully submitted,

TOWN OF PALMER
MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN . . HOLBROOK BUILDING

March 13th. 1941.

County Commissioners,

Court House,

Springfield, Massachusetts.

Gentlemen:-

Due to the extreme threatening flood conditions we are asking that the flash boards on the Three Rivers dam be taken off immediately.

Will you kindly let us hear from you regarding this matter,

Very truly,

George D. Shumway Chairman.
Board of Selectmen

H.P.

Copy of this letter sent to Mr. Tighe

March 14, 1941

George B. Cheney, Chairman,
Board of Selectmen,
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Mr. Cheney:

Your letter of March 13th relative to taking off the flashboards on the Three Rivers Dam has been received.

We have taken up the matter with Mr. James L. Tighe, Hydraulic Engineer for the County, and he will be out to see you in regard to same.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman.

TJC/N

Copy of this letter sent to Mr. Tighe

COPY

MARCH 17, 1941 - Notes on Otis Company dam just below THREE RIVERS.

****

Dam is 30 ft. in height and 190 ft. in length between abutments.

In the 1936 flood, the flood waters stood at a height of 9.2 feet above the crest.

In the 1938 Hurricane-flood, the water stood at a height of 11.6 feet above the crest, or 2.4 feet higher than the 1936 flood.

****

Crest of dam - Elevation 299.2

Actually, the County Commissioners have absolutely no jurisdiction, power, or interest in this case concerning backwater flooding at Three Rivers.

That part of the law which gives the County jurisdiction over the dams states as follows:

> CHAPTER 253, Section 45
>
> "The County Commissioners shall, as often as once in two years, cause a thorough examination to be made of every reservoir, reservoir dam and mill dam by the breaking of which loss of life or damage to a road or bridge is likely to be caused, and they shall at any time cause such examination to be made upon written application by the mayor and aldermen of a city or the selectmen of a town where such damage is likely to be caused. Any party whose property is likely to be damaged by the breaking of any such structure may make a written application to the Commissioners, setting forth the facts and the ownership of such structure which is believed to be unsafe, and the Commissioners may thereupon cause said structure to be examined."

From the above, it can be seen that the County's jurisdiction is very definitely restricted to the actual safety and stability of any dam and the prevention of loss of life or property damage which might result from the actual breaking of the structure, that is, prevention of loss of life or property damage downstream from the dam.

As far as any backwater damage above the dam is concerned, it would seem that this is entirely a matter between the owner of the dam and the owner of the property which may be injured thereby.

There is nothing in the law giving the County Commissioners any jurisdiction over the height of the dam or the use of any flashboards thereon, with respect to the effect of backwater on properties upstream.

COPY

MEMBER
AM. SOC. C. E.
INST. C. E. GREAT BRITAIN
ENG. INST. OF CANADA

JAMES L. TIGHE

CONSULTING ENGINEER
CALEDONIAN BUILDING, 189 HIGH STREET
HOLYOKE, MASS.
TELEPHONE 5525
MEMBER AM. INST. OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.

MEMBER
BOSTON SOC. C. E.
ENG. SOC. WEST. MASS.
AM. & N. E. W. W. ASSOC'S

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
ANALYSIS OF WATER

WATER POWER INVESTIGATIONS
AND DEVELOPMENT
DAMS AND POWER INSTALLATIONS
ESTIMATES AND APPRAISALS

March 18, 1941

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County, Court House
Springfield, Mass.

Thomas J. Costello, Chairman,

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your instructions, I have visited Mr. George B. Cheney, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of the town of Palmer, and have conferred with him regarding the use of flashboards on the Boston Duck Company dam at Three Rivers.

It appears that some of the property owners along the river bank in the village of Three Rivers, located about one-half a mile upstream from the dam, are concerned over the possibility of the occurrence of a flood on the river, and wish to have the flash-boards now in place on the Three Rivers dam removed, so as to lower the height of the backwater in the event of such flood.

An inspection of the dam showed that a set of flashboards 2 feet in height are now in place on the crest of the dam.

I also interviewed Mr. Brown, chief engineer of the Boston Duck Company, and drew his attention to the apparent concern caused by these flashboards being in place. Mr. Brown stated that it is desirable, in the operation of the power plant, to maintain the boards on the dam, but that constant watch is being maintained, and all possible precautions taken to prevent excessive back-water levels in the event of a sudden rise in the river.

Mr. Brown also pointed out that there is a new factor, present for the first time this year, which should have a very considerable effect in lessening flood flows and lowering flood heights in the vicinity of Three Rivers as well as throughout the entire length of the Chicopee River. This factor is the recent completion and putting in service of the Quabbin Reservoir, on the Swift River, which has the effect of impounding or holding back about 29 per cent of the previous flow of the Chicopee River at the Boston Duck Company dam at Three Rivers. It will be remembered that this subject of the effect of the Quabbin Reservoir on future flood flows in the Chicopee River was discussed at some length in the Report on the Hampden County Dams for the year 1940.

Respectfully submitted,

James L. Tighe

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

CD Palmer

Dec. 4, 1956

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

On Monday evening, Dec. 3, 1956, the undersigned met with the Selectmen, other Town officials, members of the Flood Study Committee and members of the Chamber of Commerce, at the Fire Station in Three Rivers, Palmer.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the dam in the Chicopee River just downstream from Three Rivers and the proposed changes at the dam to be made by the New England Power Service Company, that will result in lower flood levels in Three Rivers and other sections of Palmer.

The undersigned described briefly the part of the County in relation to dams and then answered questions that the various interested persons brought before the group. Flashboards were discussed and advantages of flood gates versus flashboards were reviewed. The group as a whole seemed to favor a flood gate or sluicegate rather than the use of flashboards in connection with a lower dam crest.

In regard to the proposed changes to the dam, following an hour or more of discussion, a motion was put before the gathering that the water level be held, more or less, as existing under normal conditions and that sluicegates or something else be provided to accomplish flood control. This motion was unanimously voted. Approximately 27 persons were present at the meeting.

Mr. Belanger was the maker of the motion and was the one who talked most in favor of gates rather than flashboards. Many others spoke and asked questions.

The group as a whole wished to have the flashboards removed from the dam throughout the Winter and Spring months. I told them that I did not know offhand whether the Owner of the dam had the right to a given height of flashboards at this structure but that I would try to determine the status of the flashboards. I also pointed out that your Board was interested in protecting the people of the County from damage by flood waters.

I was asked if your authority included backwater, as well as water conditions downstream of a dam. I read to the group the portion of Chapter 253, with reference to your authority regarding the breaking of dams and your jurisdiction to protect people from damage caused by breaking of dams. I told them that their question was more legal than Engineering and that my only answer could be that your Board would do all in your power and legal might, to protect them and to obtain for them the lowest possible flood crest in the future.

I will check my files to determine any correspondence or documents regarding flashboards on this dam. As of the moment I do not see how the existing flashboards can be considered a danger to the dam. In my opinion, the dam is perfectly sound and safe with the flashboards. Past experience has proven this fact.

I would be pleased to meet with you to discuss the present flashboard situation and this problem as a whole at any time to suit your convenience. If you wish I could meet with you on either Wednesday, December 14th or Thursday, December 15th.

Respectfully submitted

George T. McConnell
County Sanitary Engineer

GTM/cmb

Tokay Realty Corporation



1968 Palmer

Proposes to build 40 acre lake (dam) in West Warren and Palmer as noted on 1-11-1968.

Abutters	Tokay Realty Corporation
City/Town	Palmer

January 11, 1968

Tokay Realty Corporation
47 Warehouse Street
Springfield, Massachusetts 01106

Dear Sirs:

At a regular weekly meeting held on January 10, 1968, the Palmer Board of Selectmen voted to grant approval to the Tokay Realty Corporation to proceed further with the County Commissioners and the State Department of Natural Resources in your intent to build a dam in West Warren and to construct a 40 acre lake located both in West Warren and Palmer, Massachusetts.

Very truly yours,

James R. Flaherty
Chairman

Copy to:

Hampden County Commissioners
State Department of Natural Resources
Warren Board of Selectmen

V. V. McNITT, PRES. AND EDITOR WM. C. STEWART, VICE PRES. FRANK McNITT, VICE PRES.

SOUTHBRIDGE EVENING NEWS

SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS.

GEORGE MOZLEY, BUS. AND ADV. MANAGER
B. S. GOODWIN, ASS'T. TREAS.



October 18, 1954.

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

This will acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of October 13, calling attention to the need for repairs to a small dam on my place in Palmer, as pointed out in a report by your engineer.

I have already asked a Palmer contractor to examine the old spillway and give me an estimate on doing the work recommended by the engineer. It is none too early to get at this job, if I wish to save the installation.

With assurances of my appreciation of your interest,

Very truly yours,

V. V. McNitt

Mr. Thomas F. Sullivan, Chairman,
Board of County Commissioners,
37 Elm Street,
Springfield, Mass.

Copy of this letter mailed to George H. McDonnell, County Hydraulic Engineer, on October 20, 1954.

McNitt Dam



1954 Palmer

Located adjacent to the property between Boston Road and Nipmuck Street.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	McNitt Dam
Name	McNitt, Virgil V
Streets	Nipmuck Street
Streets	Boston Road

October 13, 1954. 7

Mr. V. V. McNitt
Blanchardville
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located adjacent to your property between Boston Road and Nipmuck Street has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

"This is a small dam and it is located immediately upstream from a large earth fill that formerly was a portion of a railroad development now abandoned. This dam is a small dam located just northerly of Boston Road and southerly of Nipmuck Street. A large earth fill containing a culvert under the fill is located immediately downstream of the dam. Because of this culvert and earth fill, loss of the dam for any reason would not greatly endanger, if at all, lives and property downstream. However, debris could possibly block the culvert and with this in view certain maintenance work should be done at the dam. The broken wooden spillway chute should be removed together with all other debris, and if a chute is desirable by the owner, a new one should be constructed. Maintenance of the earth fill downstream of the masonry wall would be desirable, and stone masonry work at the base of the spillway wing walls on the left side of the brook needs repair before further damage is done by water and the elements."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Chairman

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March 21, 1956

7

Mr. V. V. McNitt
Blanchardville
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with Section 253 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, your dam in Palmer has been inspected by our County Hydraulic Engineer, and he reports that the dam was damaged in the flood of August 1955 and to date has not been repaired. Repairs are needed to the earth fill of the embankment and to the masonry spillway and its wing walls. At present, the pond drain is open and no water is stored.

Before water is again ponded, kindly repair the damage to the structure and notify this office when work has been completed so that our Engineer may inspect the work prior to closing the draw-down gate.

The nature of work required for repairs to the dam is minor and consequently it will not be necessary to file plans and specifications of the proposed repairs.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

CD Palmer

Oct. 24, 1956

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Dear Sirs:

In connection with the letter received by your Board from V. V. McNitt, dated Oct. 15, 1956, regarding his pond and dam in Palmer, I have inspected the dam and pond area, and find that the owner has had the minor damage caused by the flood of August, 1955, repaired. Proper maintenance has been done to the dam and the structure is now safe for the purpose of impounding water.

It is recommended that you inform the owner that he can now close the gate in the dam whenever he so desires and water can be stored behind the structure.

Very truly yours

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/cmb

V. V. McNITT, PRES. AND EDITOR

FRANK McNITT, VICE PRES.

SOUTHBRIDGE EVENING NEWS

SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS.

GEORGE MOZLEY, BUS. AND ADV. MANAGER
B. S. GOODWIN, ASS'T. TREAS.



Palmer, March 24, 1956.

Dear Sirs:

There were so many demands on contractors after the August flood that I was unable in the fall to get necessary repairs made on the small dam at my place here. However, I let the job some time ago, and expect the work to be completed this spring, along the lines of your specifications.

I had the pond drained several months ago, and plan not to close the dam until after earth fills have been made and masonry walls fully repaired. You have my assurance that the work will be done as soon as I can bring it about, and that you will receive notice before the pond is filled.

The flood brought a heavy deposit of earth and silt into the pond, and I wish to have that removed before closing the gate. You will perceive it may take some time to get this excavating done and the repairs made. In the meantime the small brook will be allowed to flow through.

Very truly yours,

V. V. McNitt

Board of County Commissioners
Springfield
Massachusetts

Copy of this letter sent to George H. McDonnell, County Hydraulic Engineer, on March 27, 1956.

CD Palmer

Oct. 31, 1956

Mr. V. V. McNitt
Box 526
Palmer, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

In reference to your letter of Oct.15,1956, our County Hydraulic Engineer has inspected your dam and spillway located on your property in Palmer and has found that the maintenance and repair work completed recently is satisfactory and of good quality. Since the dam and spillway are now in good condition, you may close the gate in the dam and impound water whenever you so desire.

Very truly yours

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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ment higher than the dam is located immediately below the dam and a culvert of limited size passes thru this embankment. Water would be ponded by the old embankment and released by the small culvert.

The Owner should be advised that his dam is in danger of failing unless corrective action is taken to properly plug the leak and to replace the earth embankment.

From time to time in the past it has been noted by the undersigned that there is evidence that water overflows the entire embankment and thus the spillway is not of sufficient capacity to pass storm flows. The spillway capacity should be increased to adequately handle storm runoff, if the dam is to be protected from failure or future washouts."

As pointed out in his report, the County Hydraulic Engineer notes that even though your dam does become completely breached, release of water will be controlled by the large embankment and the small culvert immediately downstream thereof. However, since you undoubtedly wish to protect the investment you now have in your dam and pond, it would be advisable to investigate the leakage noted and to correct this condition. It would also be to your interest and for the protection of your dam to increase spillway capacity.

If you have any further questions in connection with this matter, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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BOX 526
PALMER, MASS.

October 15, 1956.

Dear Sirs:

The contractors who have been repairing the concrete dam and retaining walls at the pond and spillway on my place two miles east of Palmer, have assured me that their work will be finished by Wednesday evening of this week.

Several months ago you directed me to notify you before closing the dam to impound water. I am following your instructions, and hope you may be able to send me word soon that inspection has been made.

With thanks for your attention,

Very truly yours,

V. V. McNitt

Board of County Commissioners
Springfield
Mass.

Copy of this letter send to George H. McDonnell, County Hydraulic Engineer, on October 15, 1956.

Oct. 21, 1959

Mr. V. V. McNitt
Blanchardville Road
Box 526
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located on your property in Palmer has recently been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

> "The earth embankment immediately downstream of the masonry wall at a point adjacent to both sides of the spillway has been washed out in part. It would appear as if the capacity of the spillway has been exceeded in the recent past. The excess overflowing water caused the washout of the earth. The spillway capacity should probably be increased by raising the side walls of the spillway and the earth embankment thus creating a deeper spillway section at the overflow and providing more overflow capacity. The condition of the dam and spillway does not endanger persons and property downstream. Just immediately below the dam there is a very large earth embankment containing a culvert. The size of this culvert is small and, any loss of the dam would simply result in the earth embankment temporarily acting as a dam until the surplus water passes thru the culvert to the drainage area below."

The condition as reported at your dam is not dangerous to persons and property downstream. The embankment and culvert mentioned in the conditions noted by the Engineer would control the release of water downstream of your

property should your dam fail. If you wish to take corrective action to prevent further washouts at the dam spillway, the recommendations of the Engineer for raising the dam itself and increasing the spillway depth should be followed.

If you have any further question on this, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Acting Commissioner _____

Sept. 28, 1960

Mr. V. V. McNitt
Blanchardville Road
Box 526
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam, located on your property in Palmer, has recently been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

"Conditions reported previously were noted to still exist at the site of this structure. On the downstream side of the masonry wall, to the left and to the right of the spillway opening, the earth embankment has been washed out by high rates of flow during storm run-off conditions. At the time of the inspection at this dam, on Sept.15, 1960, there was evidence of recent overflow on the earth embankment. The overflow probably occurred during the hurricane rain on Monday, Sept. 12th. To prevent washing of the earth embankment downstream of the masonry wall, the Owner should increase spillway capacity. The least expensive method of doing this would probably be by raising the masonry wall and the earth embankment of the dam, to provide for a deeper spillway notch that will thus pass higher rates of runoff.

As reported previously, conditions at this dam and spillway are not dangerous and persons and property downstream will not suffer because of any washout at the dam. Just immediately below the dam there exists a very large earth embankment thru which is located a small culvert. The

size of the culvert controls the quantity of water that can pass thru the embankment to the highway below and thus, any loss of the dam would simply result in this large earth embankment temporarily acting as a dam, until such time as the surplus water passed thru the culvert, at a controlled rate, to the drainage area below".

If you have any further questions in connection with this matter, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very truly yours

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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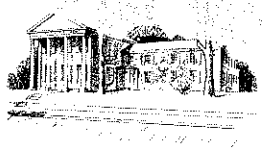
V. V. McNITT, PRES. AND EDITOR

FRANK McNITT, VICE PRES.

SOUTHBRIDGE EVENING NEWS

SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS.

GEORGE MOZLEY, BUS. AND ADV. MANAGER
B. S. GOODWIN, ASS'T. TREAS.



Copy of this
letter sent
to G.H.McDonnell
Cty Hydraulic
Engr on 10/4/60.

October 1, 1960.

Dear Sirs:

This acknowledges receipt of your letter of Sept. 28 relative to the small dam on my Palmer place. The damage you mention was caused by the recent storm. I have already begun planning to repair the damage and make the dam stronger than before.

You may be quite sure I wish to keep everything in good condition, and that I appreciate your suggestions.

Very sincerely yours,

V. V. McNitt

Board of County Commissioners
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass.

Oct. 23, 1963

Mr. V. V. McNitt
Blanchardville Road
Box 526
Palmer, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam, located on your property in Palmer, has recently been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

" The earth embankment of the structure is somewhat rough in shape but is covered with a fairly good turf. There is a washout in the embankment at the right of the spillway. This washout is about 8 ft., more or less, in length and 4 ft. deep. The bottom of the washout is rock filled. The concrete masonry wall along the upstream section of the embankment that extends from the spillway prevents complete loss of the pond. The spillway masonry itself is in satisfactory condition.

Water is leaking under or thru the dam and emerges into the washout at a point where the embankment terminates. No earth was being washed with the leaking water at the time of inspection on October 9. Leakage is probably occurring under the concrete wall just adjacent to the void washed in the embankment.

Any enlargement of the void in the embankment will result in the exposure of an additional amount of the upstream masonry wall and could cause failure of this wall.

A complete breach of the dam and release of ponded water would not endanger persons and property downstream, since a large embank-

BOX 526
PALMER, MASS.

October 25, 1963.

Dear Sirs:

I am greatly obliged to you for your letter advising repairs to the small dam on my property, recommended by your engineer.

The work will be carried out in compliance with your suggestions as early as possible this fall. I employ a man who is good at that kind of undertaking.

Very sincerely yours,

V. V. McNitt

County Commissioners
37 Elm Street
Springfield, Mass

DUFFY AND DUFFY
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
412 MAIN STREET
PALMER, MASS. 01069

JAMES W. DUFFY
EDWARD R. DUFFY

TEL.(413) 283-6271

November 4, 1964

Mr. Thomas F. Sullivan
Mr. William F. Stapleton
Mr. Ralph P. Walsh
County Commissioners of Hampden County
Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

The writer is Counsel for the Executors of the Estate of Virgil V. McNitt to whom you wrote under date of October 21 concerning the condition and safety of a dam on the property of Mr. McNitt.

The statements contained in your report have been noted and immediate action will be taken to correct the deficiencies.

If you have further communications in this matter, I trust you will direct them to the writer.

Very truly yours,

James W. Duffy

JWD:sah

CC: County Engineer

GENERAL INSURANCE

REAL ESTATE

M. WILLIAM HOLDEN

BANK BLOCK

PALMER, MASS.

TELEPHONE 275

Nov. 14 1935.

County Commissioners,

Hampden Co unty.

Springfield, Mass/

Gentlemen:

Your notice of the 6th. is hereby acknowkedged in regard to repairs needed on lower dam of small reservoir at Palmer center.

This will be taken care of as your engineer suggests and if possible to complete same before cold weather will do so, however I will notify you when same is completed.

Very truly yours,

M. William Holden

Copy of this letter sent to Mr. Tighe on 11/23/35

Holden Dam



1935 Palmer

Lower dam of small reservoir at Palmer center.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Holden Dam
Name	Holden, M William
Name	Holden, William

This letter written
in Mr. Tighe's office.

November 6, 1935

Mr. William Holden
431 Main Street
Palmer, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 45 of Chapter 253 of the General Laws as amended by Chapter 334 of the Acts of 1923 and as further amended by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 1924 relative to the inspection condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are notified that the lower dam of the reservoir supplying water to the Village of Thorndike has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted by him:

The concrete facing wall of the embankment along the water line and the edges of the spillway are showing considerable erosion and should be repaired. The embankment at the south end of the spillway where damaged by surface water should be refilled with gravel thoroughly tamped in place, and the planking, which is showing considerable decay on the downstream side of the spillway, should be renewed.

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By Thos. J. Costello
CHAIRMAN

Chas. W. Bray

Maurice G. Donahue

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, Inc.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
189 HIGH STREET
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL
C-D

November 9, 1955

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Following the flood of August 1955, I reported to your Board about an old abandoned street car bridge across the Quabaug River in Palmer and just downstream from the Worcester County Electric Company sub-station that serves a large area of Hampden County. This bridge together with piers and abutments was seriously damaged in the August flood and the bridge now sags towards the stream bed.

The structure does not comprise a dam but it does cause a blockage to the flow of the river at times of high water. Debris carried by the high water could catch on the bridge and further restrict the channel so that eventually a dam might actually be formed. The creation of such a blockage could raise the elevation of the water surface in the vicinity of the sub-station and, if raised high enough, could cause major damage to this installation. If the damage was of a serious nature, many communities could be without power for a long period of time.

Mr. Gale of the Worcester County Electric Company has contacted me and stated that their organization has been approached by a junk man who has agreed to remove the steel work of the bridge but not the piers, for the right to the metal thus salvaged. As I mentionedin my previous letter, the ownership of this bridge is in doubt. I believe it was once owned by the Street Railway Company but abandoned when the Company went out of business. The land adjacent to the bridge was apparently acquired by the Electric Company but acquisition specifically ruled out structures thereon. The bridge remained in place and was later used by a petroleum company for carrying a petroleum pipeline across the Quabaug River. The petroleum company just went ahead and used the bridge and never did find out or apparently could not find out any person or firm claiming ownership.

Since the structure is a menace as it now exists and since all parties concerned withthe bridge and with whom I have conferred on the matter of the bridge, have no desire to see the bridge remain in place, it would seem that the structure should be removed.

In view of the fact that this may be a problem for the Division of Waterways of the Department of Public Works, and also in view of the fact that representatives of the Department will probably be at your office on Wednesday, November 16th, for the hearing on Flood Damage, I would recommend that the matter of this bridge be taken up at that time and that the Division of Waterways be requested to take whatever legal steps are necessary to remove the bridge or to authorize the junkman doing work for the Worcester County Electric Company to remove the bridge.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/emm

Worcester County Electric Company Dam



1955 Palmer

Dam removed in 1955 - on Quabaug River.

City/Town	Palmer
Dam	Worcester County Electric Company Dam
Name	Worcester County Electric Company
Water	Quabaug River

C-D

September 14, 1955

COPY

Worcester County Electric Co.
Palmer,
Mass.

Gentlemen:

Your dam situated on the Quabaug River in Palmer was damaged by the recent flood. Before any repairs or alterations to the dam are made it is necessary that plans and specifications be filed with the County. It is my understanding that you may plan to remove the dam from the river entirely. However, if repairs are made to the structure, they must be made in compliance with Chapter 253 of the General Laws, a copy of which is enclosed.

This letter will also confirm my appointment to inspect the dam and discuss plans for its possible removal. This appointment is for Friday morning, September 16th, 1955, at 11:30 A.M. at the site of the dam.

If the undersigned can assist you in any way or if there is further information desired, please contact me at the above address.

Very truly yours,

GHM/emm

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

November 17, 1955

Rodolphe G. Bessette, Director,
Division of Waterways,
Department of Public Works,
100 Nashua Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Bessette:

The HampdenCounty Commissioners forward you the enclosed request for removal of an old abandoned street car bridge across the Quabaug River in Palmer, described in detail in the letter from our County Hydraulic Engineer, Mr. George H. McDonnell.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By_____
Chairman.

WFS/N
Encl.

March 21, 1956

Worcester County Electric Company
Palmer Office
Palmer, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, our hydraulic engineer has inspected the remains of your dam on the Quaboag River in Palmer and reports that most of the old timber crib dam has been removed. However, some timber and planking remain in the river bed and is piled loosely on the shores. To prevent this material from being washed downstream and doing damage, it is requested that the work of removing the dam be completed as soon as weather and river conditions permit.

Any additional information desired on this matter will be furnished on request.

Very truly yours,

Board of County Commissioners

_____

_____

_____

GHB:/mcb

March 21, 1956

Worcester County Electric Company
Palmer Office
Palmer, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, our hydraulic engineer has inspected the remains of your dam on the Quaboag River in Palmer and reports that most of the old timber crib dam has been removed. However, some timber and planking remain in the river bed and is piled loosely on the shores. To prevent this material from being washed downstream and doing damage, it is requested that the work of removing the dam be completed as soon as weather and river conditions permit.

Any additional information desired on this matter will be furnished on request.

Very truly yours,

Board of County Commissioners

_____

_____

_____

GHM/mdb

(C O P Y)

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
189 HIGH STREET
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
GEORGE H. McDONNELL
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

March 16, 1956

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Elm Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

On Thursday, March 8, 1956, the undersigned inspected the remains of the timber crib dam of the Worcester County Electric Company in Palmer. This dam is located on the Quaboag River southerly of the B. & A. Railroad main line tracks. At one time the dam was used for power development but the hydro-electric installation attached thereto has been abandoned. Consequently, following the flood of August, 1955 and, coupled with the damage to the dam as the result of the flood, it was decided by the owner to remove the structure.

Most of the timber crib work has been removed. However, some timbers and planking still remain in the bed of the river and piled loosely on the shores of the river.

It is recommended that loose timber and planking be removed and the remains of the dam be taken from the river so that these materials will not be washed downstream by high water and cause damage to property below.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/mdb

WATER SUPPLY
SEWERAGE
SEWAGE DISPOSAL
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DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
WASTE DISPOSAL

C-D

March 20, 1956

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners
Hampden County Court House
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

While inspecting dams in Palmer recently, I noted that the old Street Railway tressle across the Quaboag River downstream of the Worcester County Electric Co. sub-station is still in place and forms a potential barrier to flood water flows. This bridge is no longer used for any purpose, insofar as I know, and that property is not claimed by any Owner.

It has been recommended that steps be taken to remove this bridge and abutments from the river. This work, I believe, could be initiated by the Town of Palmer, with assistance probably coming from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Division of Waterways or from the Corps of Engineers of the U. S. Army.

I have recently heard of another instance where the Corps of Engineers is taking an active part in removing abandoned structures from stream beds, to provide better flow characteristics at time of flood.

It is possible that the salvage value of the steel in the old street railway bridge might equal the cost of removing the structure. Thus, none would probably be required to finance the work unless removal of the abutments proves difficult and costly. It would seem advisable to urge Palmer to take action regarding the removal of this bridge. Under the law, however, I believe that your Board has no jurisdiction in this matter.

Very truly yours,

By G.H. McDonnell
George H. McDonnell
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/emm



End of Book D15~ Dams ~ Town of Palmer